

Roman Jews hail synagogue visit

Pope's gesture 'won't alter relationship'

By HAIM SHAPIRO
in Jerusalem
and LISA PALMERI BILLIG
in Rome

The announced visit of Pope John Paul II to a Rome synagogue next month may well bring comfort to the Jews of that city and elsewhere in the world. But it has little to do with possible Vatican recognition of Israel or even a favourable turn in Roman Catholic doctrine concerning the Jews. Jewish leaders of interfaith understanding in Israel told *The Jerusalem Post* last night.

The visit, scheduled for Sunday, April 13, may be the first by any Pope to a synagogue. In announcing it yesterday, Vatican sources said it would be a major landmark in Catholic-Jewish relations, but did not indicate a change in the Vatican's position towards Israel.

Prof. David Flusser, a leading expert in early church history and respected by Jews and Christians alike, said in Jerusalem that the visit showed the Vatican was attempting to reach a certain "equilibrium" to balance recent critical statements by the Pope about the Jews and Judaism.

Flusser, too, stressed that the visit was not related to recognition of Israel by the Vatican or even any doctrinal turning point. "But we Jews are so accustomed to hatred in many ways," Flusser said, "that we can take comfort in this gesture."

More caustic was Prof. Zvi Werblowsky, a leading figure in the attempt to reach interfaith understanding. Terming the visit "timely and useful" for the Vatican, he noted that there had been much bitterness in the Rome Jewish community ever since the Church concordat with the Fascist government, which put the city's Jewish cata-

combs under Vatican control and made it difficult for Jews to go there. In recent months, he noted, the Pope had on several occasions quoted New Testament passages holding the Jews responsible for the death of Jesus. Unlike other Jewish observers, Werblowsky did not feel that such statements constituted an attempt to go back on the declarations of Vatican II, but he was concerned that they appeared to be the "conditioned reflex" of a Polish prelate.

No doubt, he added, "the bishop of Rome thinks the visit to the synagogue would be a timely gesture, especially in view of his strange and rather puzzling utterances in recent months."

Some Jewish observers in Rome were pleased, however.

A veteran observer of the Vatican scene, Joseph Lichten of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, said "As bishop and archbishop of Cracow, he did visit synagogues, but this is the first time a pope will set foot inside a synagogue. I am told the Holy Father has been ready to pay this visit for some time now. I did not expect this to come about so soon, I am pleasantly touched that it has."

The Rome Jewish community is over 2,000 years old. It has lived mostly in the shadow of the Vatican, good and bad times alternating with every new pope.

For 400 years the gates of the ghetto were closed from sundown to sunrise—by papal order—and only in 1870, with the unification of Italy, was the curfew lifted.

Although a papal visit to the main synagogue has long been considered a necessary "next step" in ecumenism, (Continued on Page 2, Col. 7)

Damascus bomb blast is blamed on Iraq

By YEHUDA LITANI
and Agencies

Syria's state-run television yesterday accused Iraq of exploding the booby-trapped truck in Damascus last week that wounded eight people.

It said the bomb was planted by a Lebanese-born "Iraqi agent" named as Ahmad Hussein Kid. It said Kid, 27, had been captured.

The television station said the incident was "a new disgraceful smear in the history of [Iraqi President] Saddam Hussein's regime."

According to sources who were in Damascus at the time of the explosion, the blast at the city's northern entrance was heard throughout the capital. A large cloud of smoke was seen billowing over the city.

Police sealed off the area of the explosion and the sirens of ambulances could still be heard arriving at the scene 30 minutes after the explosion, the sources said.

Diplomats in Damascus speculated that Iraqis or Palestinians were behind the bombing. The diplomats said that there were far more casualties than the official figures indicated.

They added that there have been about half-a-dozen similar bombings most of them not reported, during the past six months.

The latest bombing has increased tensions between Syria and Iraq, which have been at odds since the beginning of the 1980s because of Syria's support for Iran in the gulf war.

Following Thursday's blast, Syria tightened security along its border with Lebanon, Voice of Lebanon Radio reported yesterday.



French Prime Minister Laurent Fabius leaves his home in Paris yesterday morning to escort his children to school. Later, Fabius, whose party lost its majority in parliament, visited President Francois Mitterrand to submit his resignation. (AFP telephoto)

Compromise still eludes warring Herut sides

By SARAH HONIG

Post Political Correspondent
TEL AVIV. — Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir and his close supporters consulted yesterday on how to mend the rift in Herut. However, the party was still bogged down in its post-convention mire.

Chances that the warring sides can come up with a formula acceptable to everyone appeared slim yesterday, as sources in the Shamir camp indicated that much of what Ariel Sharon is proposing as a compromise is in fact identical to the ultimatum that Sharon and David Levy jointly presented to Shamir on the eve of the ill-fated convention.

The meeting of the Shamir camp ended last night with a decision to call a meeting this week of the Herut ministers, with or without the participation of David Levy. Levy said earlier this week that he would come to such a meeting if invited.

The sources indicated that Sharon, having appointed himself go-between, is doing this on the assumption that Shamir would have no choice but to accept his good offices.

The Shamir side is most strongly opposed to the notion that the functions of party chairman, which Menachem Begin occupied until now, must be split up if Shamir is to inherit the title.

According to this plan, Shamir

would keep the honorary title, but the position of executive chairman, which was always held by the party chairman, would now be separated from it. The executive chairman would now be either Levy or Sharon, with one of them also filling the role of central committee chairman.

Not only does the Shamir side refuse to split the party chairman's job, but it also looks askance at the idea that Herut would in effect be ruled by a Shamir-Levy-Sharon troika, leaving Moshe Arens, the man Shamir would like to see succeeding him, out of the picture entirely. By implication, this would put Arens out of the running for the party leadership.

Among other obstacles to agreement is Levy's continued insistence on an immediate resumption of the aborted convention, even without a prior accommodation between the sides. Sharon proposes a second convention session in early April, for a single day only, to rubber stamp his "compromise" before the April 8 Labour convention gets under way. He is warning that unless Herut sorts out its problems by then, Labour will use them as a pretext to waltz on the rotation agreement.

But the Shamir camp maintains that there would be no way of calling a second convention session before June.

Labour to use ongoing disputes against Herut

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Political Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Labour Party does not intend taking direct advantage of the split in Herut to foment a coalition crisis, well-informed sources said yesterday. Rather, Labour will concentrate on exacerbating existing disputes between the two parties on substantive issues.

One such issue is the 1986 draft budget, currently under discussion in the Knesset Finance Committee. The party leadership has endorsed the demand by left-wingers that substantial alterations be made in the budget's social allocations, while remaining within the overall budgetary framework. Any such changes are likely to be strongly resisted by the Treasury and by much of the Likud.

In addition, Prime Minister Peres intends reviving his demand that a ministerial committee be established, with himself at the head, to oversee the implementation of a growth policy. Vice Premier Shamir and Finance Minister Modai were apparently amenable to the idea when it was previously raised, though ministers David Levy and Ariel Sharon were strongly opposed.

Anti-rotation sentiment has increased substantially in Labour since last week's torrid Herut convention, with many members disagreeing

with the leadership's "wait and see" policy. The activists believe that the public, shocked by scenes of violence at the Herut convention, would accept a Labour decision to dismantle the government and hold new elections.

The Labour central committee is due to convene next Sunday to discuss a resolution that Labour renounce the rotation agreement. The resolution was submitted three weeks ago by a group of 104 central committee members, headed by former MK Michael Bar-Zohar.

The resolution will be opposed by Peres, who is expected to propose that the issue be discussed at the party's convention in early April. Labour Secretary-General Uzi Baram said yesterday he expected the convention to draw up general guidelines for the party's participation in the unity government, while leaving the actual decision in the hands of the leadership or the central committee.

Labour leaders have been in contact with representatives of the smaller coalition parties since the Herut convention to sound them out on the possibility of establishing a narrow coalition. However, no progress is likely until the true balance of forces in Herut and the Likud becomes clear.

Shamir scores U.S. April 1 deadline on Taba negotiations

By ASHER WALLFISH
and BENNY MORRIS
Jerusalem Post Correspondents

Jerusalem said there was no logic in U.S. envoy Richard Murphy's suggestion that the Israeli-Egyptian committee discussing the procedure for solving the Taba dispute end its deliberations by April 1.

But a senior Israeli official involved in the talks told *The Jerusalem Post* that most of the Taba compromise is already written. The two countries are due to resume negotiations tomorrow in Cairo.

Shamir made his remark during an appearance before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Com-

mittee. He added that, instead of suggesting deadlines, the U.S. ought to persuade Egypt to implement the commitments it has already made on bilateral issues such as normalization of relations.

Shamir complained that the Egyptians are promising progress towards normalization only after the two countries have signed the compromise, as the joint document governing the arbitration process is officially designated.

The foreign minister also said he told Murphy last week that Israel would not give up its demand that the stage of conciliation over Taba precede arbitration.

Israeli negotiators believe that in

After right gains majority Mitterrand due to pick premier today

PARIS. — French President Francois Mitterrand is to choose a new prime minister today from the ranks of the conservative parties, following their narrow victory in Sunday's election to the National Assembly.

The president announced on television last night that he would make his choice today.

Earlier yesterday, Socialist Prime Minister Laurent Fabius submitted his resignation to Mitterrand.

The president and the prime minister met for 90 minutes, and Fabius handed over his letter offering to resign.

Revised figures yesterday gave the moderate rightist parties 289 seats, exactly the number needed for a majority in the 577 seat assembly, with the declaration yesterday or results in French Polynesia, where Gaston Flosse and Alexandre Leontieff of Jacques Chirac's neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic (RPR) were returned.

At Kfar Hamaccabiah last night, Premier Peres told the annual convention of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel that this country must prevent MK Meir Kahane from creating a base that will give him 10 per cent of the vote, as the extremist party of Le Pen received in the French elections. Peres said that the vote for Le Pen is a cause for concern not only to France, but to all citizens of the democratic world.

The RPR now has 150 seats, the centre-right Union for French Democracy (UDF) has 127 and diverse moderate right wing parties 12.

In the biggest surprise of the poll, the extreme-right National Front won 32 seats, and four other independent right wing candidates were returned, three of whom may ally themselves in the assembly to the National Front.

The Socialists have 198, and can count on the support in the assembly of another 17 deputies from left-of-centre parties. The Communists have 35, their worst showing since the 1930s.

Leaders of the RPR and UDF met in Paris yesterday to discuss their tactics, and afterwards issued a statement which appeared to directly challenge Mitterrand.

It said that the French had chosen a new set of policies and that they could only be put into operation by a prime minister and government which worked "without compromise or concessions."

The communique said that the politician called on by Mitterrand to be prime minister must assure himself that he enjoys the "necessary support" of the majority coalition.

Commentators say the right-wing opposition's failure to win a resounding majority will handicap the chances of survival of the next government and could even lead to an

early presidential election. But a right-wing government with a fragile majority will be subject to conflicting threats and pressures — not least the rival presidential ambitions of its leading figures.

If Mitterrand picks Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac as premier, the 53-year-old mayor of Paris will lack the overwhelming popular mandate he needs to make the left-wing president accept his right-wing programme.

The RPR leader controls the strongest party machine on the right but opinion polls show that he is less popular than his arch-rival Raymond Barre.

Barre said before the vote that the elections to the National Assembly were only a round in the political struggle and the decisive battle would be the presidential vote.

National Front President Jean-Marie Le Pen said: "The left is beaten and by a large margin." Le Pen has declared his intention to make "cohabitation" between the socialist president and opposition assembly unworkable in hopes Mitterrand will resign.

The Front's success — it received close to 10 per cent of the national vote — was greeted with concern.

"This puts a permanent cyst in French society, a cancer threatening healthy tissue," said Harlem Desir, leader of SOS-Racism which blames Le Pen for whipping up hatred against immigrants.

He added: "The opposition must say clearly whether this little racist and fascist group is part of the family and if they are — or are not — ready to make alliances with it at local levels."

Premier Fabius said the result caused "legitimate concern for all democrats."

In a victory statement, Le Pen said he achieved his first objective, to surpass the Communists. "The opposition has — with us — a large majority to govern the country and break with the Socialists."

Leaders of the two major rightist parties stressed, however, they would not align themselves with the National Front.

Le Pen, accused of torture while serving as a paratrooper in Algeria, has been decried by local Jewish community leaders as a racist and an anti-Semite. Last week a French court sentenced him to a symbolic fine after finding him guilty of making a racist statement when he insulted four Jewish newsmen who had been critical of his and his party's activities.

Le Pen denies being anti-Jewish, but admits to being anti-Arab and in favour of expelling many of the immigrant guest workers in France, most of whom are of North African origin.

Out of 1,840 seats, the National Front won 130, showing particularly strongly in southern France where on the national ballot it took almost 25 per cent of the vote in the Marseille district. (AP, AFP, Reuters, JTA)

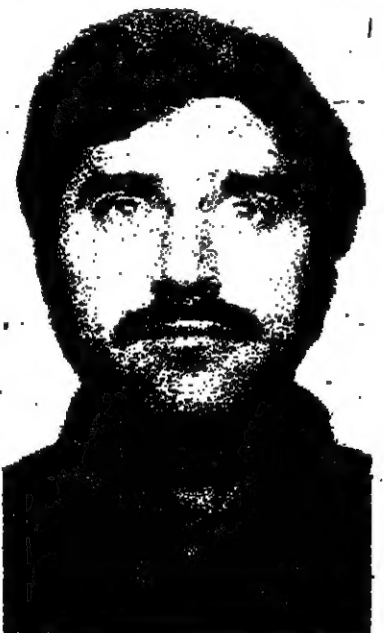
Teacher held in Palme murder

STOCKHOLM. — A 32-year-old Swedish teacher was charged on Monday with "participation in a crime" following the February 28 assassination of Prime Minister Olof Palme, the Swedish prosecutor-general said.

The man, who was not named in line with Swedish legal practice, was charged after the expiry of the maximum five-day period during which a person may be held without charge, was arrested last Wednesday. He was identified in foreign photo agency captions as Victor Gunnarsson.

Police chief Hans Holmer, who is heading the murder inquiry, told a press conference that "the man is lying or will not speak about his movements at the time of the crime." He was seen "near the scene of the murder" and "in a cinema," he said. Mr. Palme was leaving a cinema when he was shot dead.

Mr. Holmer said the man had made verbal threats against the premier to Palme aides. He did not say whether he was accused of being an accomplice to the murder or of the murder itself. The charge "participation in a crime" could legally cover



Victor Gunnarsson, the 32-year-old Swedish teacher being held on suspicion of complicity in the assassination of Swedish premier Olof Palme. (AFP telephoto)

either case. He was described by his defenders on Wednesday as being "afraid of communism" and "opposed to social-democratic policies."

A priest who knew the accused, described him as "highly intelligent," speaking several languages and with numerous contacts among foreigners. He had "a decided tendency to fantasize," and "worshipped the U.S."

Holmer said the man had tried unsuccessfully to flag down a car on a street soon after the murder. He then went into a cinema long after the performance started. Everything gives the impression that he was running away," the police chief said.

The public prosecutor's statement said according to one witness, the man made remarks in a telephone call in February to the effect that "Palme was on the death list" and "blood would flow on the streets of Stockholm."

It added that the suspect could not produce an alibi for the evening in question and had changed his story several times when confronted with witnesses. (AFP, Reuters)

Supply said not endangered

Matzot go up in smoke in Bnei Brak

By YORAM GAZIT
Jerusalem Post Reporter

BNEI BRAK. — Clouds of black smoke hung over Bnei Brak yesterday and the road from Petah Tikva to Tel Aviv was closed, as firefighters struggled all day against a giant fire in the Matzot Aviv matza factory here.

More than 100,000 packages of matza, intended mainly for export for Passah, were burned to a crisp. Damage caused by the fire is still to be assessed. Last night fire-fighters were still battling the flames, although the fire was under control. The firm's spokesman said the

country's supply of matza would not be seriously affected by the fire.

He added that in his opinion the blaze was caused by a short circuit.

Israel TV said last night that Matzot Aviv, which has three factories, produces 60 per cent of the country's matza supply. The broadcast added that the firm is owned by two families which have fallen out, and that a receiver, Yehzekel Flomin, was recently appointed. One of the families has applied to the High Court of Justice against the decision to put Matzot Aviv under receivership.

About a month ago a fire broke out in another branch of Matzot

Aviv, and a worker later admitted that it was caused through his negligence.

A Bnei Brak fire official said the causes of yesterday's fire had not yet been determined. He added that police were checking the possibility of arson.

Two fire-fighters inhaled smoke battling yesterday's blaze and had to receive medical treatment.

Firemen said the fire probably resulted from a short circuit.

The power supply to Pardess Katz and part of Bnei Brak was cut off as a result of the fire. Residents of buildings in the area were evacuated to a Tel Aviv hotel.

Because of Orthodox opposition

Racism amendment won't reach vote today

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

The amendment to the penal code declaring incitement to racism a criminal offence will not come up today in the Knesset plenum for its second and third readings because the Orthodox factions have warned the coalition that they will vote against it.

The Orthodox factions have arranged a meeting with Justice Minister Moshe Nissim tomorrow to explain their reservations about the alleged impugning of Halacha which they attribute to the bill.

The distinctions between Jew and Gentile enshrined in Jewish law should not be left open to a racist interpretation, the factions urge.

The two chief rabbis have also expressed their concern that the amendment might be interpreted as outlawing certain halachic decisions,

especially those concerning marriage with non-Jews or the sale of property to them.

The Prevention of Terror Ordinance making it an offence for Israelis to meet with PLO officials comes up for its second and third readings today. It is assured a safe, albeit stormy, passage.

The Alignment decided yesterday to commit all its members to support the bill, but added that any faction member wishing to vote otherwise would have to seek permission personally from faction secretary Rafi Edri.

Meanwhile, Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Shapira said yesterday that 50 per cent of what is published in the media is a lie and the remaining 50 per cent is distortion.

Shapira said that was why he pays no attention to what the media say. He was speaking to Knesset Interior Committee chairman Dov Shi-

lansky and four committee members who were visiting the two chief rabbis in defiance of an Alignment boycott.

The truncated committee delegation represented the Likud, the National Religious Party and Morasha.

The two chief rabbis had refused to come to the Knesset to brief the committee on the Temple Mount issue, arguing that their dignity would be offended.

Both rabbis said that Halacha forbids Jews from ascending the Temple Mount.

Shapira said the amendment to the penal code making it an offence to incite to racism was an offence to the Torah since the amendment held the Torah up as racist.

Sephardi Chief Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu said the bill would give Orthodox Jews "nothing but trouble."

Police told to probe insults to Herzog at Kach meeting

By BARBARA AMOUYAL
For The Jerusalem Post

Two persons suspected of having insulted President Chaim Herzog at the recent Kach convention in Jerusalem may be charged with a crime.

Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir yesterday instructed Police Inspector-General David Kraus to investigate allegations that Moshe Fotobovsky and Reuven Ben-Ami insulted the president when they criticized him for not attending the convention on February 12.

Section 288 of the penal code states that a "Person who by gestures, words or acts insults a public servant...while engaged in the discharge of his duties or in connection with them is liable to imprisonment for six months."

Zamir told Kraus to monitor the progress of the investigation to bring the two suspects to trial as quickly as possible.

Meanwhile, the Attorney-General's Office decided yesterday not to interfere in the citizen's complaint against Petah Tikva Mayor Dov Tavori filed in November 1985 by Kach member Atzmon Rosenberg, also of Petah Tikva. Rosenberg charges that Tavori slapped him and called him "Vermin, fascist and Nazi" in full view of an audience that had come to hear the mayor interviewed.

Deputy Attorney-General Yehudit Karp yesterday decided that the state should not interfere in a private dispute between two citizens.

the round of talks starting tomorrow the two sides will either conclude the formulation of a joint document, which will then have to be brought to the Israeli and Egyptian cabinets for approval, or will complete most of the document, leaving two or three major points unresolved.

In the latter case, the two governments will have to consider the several options being offered and decide.

A senior official involved in the negotiations said that a great deal of progress has already been made regarding the normalization of relations. He pointed to the cessation of Egyptian attacks on Israel at international forums; the cessation of Egypt-

ian interference in Israeli efforts to establish relations with Third World states (and Spain); the cessation of official anti-Israel statements in Egypt; the carrying-out of the Da'far search; and the Israeli agreement to the construction of the Coptic College at Beit Hanina in Jerusalem.

The official added that the Israeli-Egyptian agreement on stolen vehicles that are smuggled across the Sinai border is already being implemented, with Egypt handing back such vehicles.

Shamir told the Knesset panel that, whereas Egypt wanted to ask the arbitrators to reply to the question, "Where were the Taba border-

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 2)

The weather at major Swissair destinations

	17.3.86	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	6	43	54	Cloudy
BRUSSELS	3	37	46	Cloudy
BUENOS AIRES	15	59	86	Clear
CHICAGO	1	34	45	Clear
COPENHAGEN	1	34	45	Clear
FRANKFURT	0	32	43	Clear
GENEVA	-2	28	41	Clear
HELSINKI	-4	25	37	Clear
HONG KONG	16	61	73	Clear
JOHANNESBURG	17	63	75	Clear
LISBON	8	46	59	Clear
LONDON	5	41	52	Clear
MADRID	5	41	52	Clear
MONTREAL	-1	33	47	Clear
NEW YORK	8	45	59	Clear
OSLO	0	32	43	Clear
PARIS	4	40	51	Clear
RIO DE JANEIRO	19	66	81	Clear
SAO PAULO	19	66	81	Clear
STOCKHOLM	2	35	48	Clear
TOKYO	5	41	52	Clear
TORONTO	8	45	59	Clear
VIENNA	1	34	45	Clear
ZURICH	2	35	46	Clear

*For the latest weather conditions contact Swissair.

Tel Aviv, 41 Ben Yehuda St. (03) 243350
Jerusalem, 30 Jaffa St. (02) 225233
Haifa, 2 Sea Road, (04) 384655
Beer Sheva, 35 Ha'atav St. (057) 35282

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THE WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy.

	Yesterday's	Yesterday's	Today's
	Humidity	Min-Max	Min
Jerusalem	52	8-16	17
Golan	27	9-18	19
Nahariya	61	8-20	21
Safed	36	9-18	19
Hatza Pori	32	13-25	21
Tiberias	32	11-25	25
Nazareth	37	10-20	22
Afula	57	8-22	20
Shomron	54	9-18	18
Tel Aviv	55	11-20	21
B-G Airport	60	9-20	21
Jericho	32	12-26	26
Gaza	63	11-19	20
Beersheba	49	6-20	22
Eilat	36	14-27	29

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The Jennie and Abraham D. Slavitt Israel Law Review Endowment Fund was inaugurated last night at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, in the presence of Abraham D. Slavitt of Norwalk, Conn.

Shahal demands payment from East Jerusalem electric company

By ARYEH RUBINSTEIN
Post Knesset Reporter
Energy Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday in the Knesset that the Jerusalem District Electricity Company should pay its debts and renew its obsolete equipment. "Otherwise there is no justification for the company's existence," he said.
Speaking on his ministry's activities, Shahal said that the East Jerusalem electric company's \$12 million debt to the Israel Electric Corporation is strictly a business matter between two firms, and the IEC does not even have the right to cancel the debt.

The East Jerusalem company has become a middleman, which was not the intention when it was granted its concession, Shahal said. It buys 93.7 per cent of its electricity from the IEC, and produces only 6.3 per cent itself — and on that it loses money.
Gideon Gadot (Likud-Herut) said in the debate that the company's main problem is not financial, but the fact that it has become a PLO stronghold. "Even King Hussein demanded that the number of employees be reduced — and everyone knows whom he meant."

MK queries Navon on his 2 cars, chauffeurs

Post Knesset Correspondent
A Likud member of the Knesset Education Committee who considers it uneconomical for the education minister to have two official cars and two chauffeurs, has tabled a question to Education Minister Yitzhak Navon in committee on the matter.
The Likud member, Pinhas Goldstein, said he understood that Navon enjoyed one car and one chauffeur by virtue of his cabinet portfolio while Mrs. Navon had the other car and driver because she is the wife of an ex-president.

Maccabi wins 90-78

By DON GOULD
Post Basketball Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Hapoel Tel Aviv fans who had been hoping for an end to an era were left disappointed last night at Yad Elihu stadium when Maccabi Tel Aviv, the national basketball champions for the past 17 years, moved into the finals again with a 90-78 victory.

HOME AND FOREIGN NEWS

State must pay in death of W. Banker

By RON JOURARD
Jerusalem Post Reporter
The Defence Ministry has been ordered to pay NIS 110,000 compensation to the family of a West Bank man who was killed by an IDF soldier during maneuvers.
The case, decided in the Jerusalem District Court last week, was the first in which the ministry had been sued by a West Bank Arab in an Israeli court and made to pay compensation for a death or injury caused by army negligence in the administered territories.
Deeb Dabak, of Taseer, near Jenin, was killed in December 1983 when a soldier at the army base next to the village fired in the wrong

direction. The soldier was subsequently convicted in the military court in Jaffa of disobeying orders.
Dabak had two wives and eight children.
Mazen Qupity, an Israeli lawyer who represented the family, said that families whose members were killed or injured in similar circumstances in the past had settled for much smaller amounts from the Civil Administration. "The feeling in the West Bank is that you can't do anything against the army," he said.
Qupity said he decided to take the case to court after the army offered to pay "only" NIS 5,000 compensation.
The compensation was based on

Dabak's annual earnings in 1983 of about \$5,400. He grew crops on his own land and did farm work on kibbutzim.
Qupity said he was also trying to win compensation for three children who were allegedly injured through the army's negligence. One child was blinded in his right eye by an IDF bullet, Qupity said. The other two children were injured when they stepped on a mine that had been planted by the IDF during training, he said.
Qupity said he was negotiating with the Defence Ministry for an out-of-court settlement in these cases.

Ethnic factor in ministry appointment

By HAIM SHAPIRO
Jerusalem Post Reporter
Sephardi or not Sephardi, that is the question. At least that's the question when Interior Minister Yitzhak Peretz has to choose a successor to Interior Ministry Director-General Haim Kubersky, who submitted his resignation this week.
According to informed sources, members of Peretz's Shas Party (Sephardi Torah Guardians) have been pressing for a Sephardi. This, after all, is the most important civil-service post to fall vacant since the party came into prominence at the last elections.
But at least one of the main candidates for the post is an Ashkenazi.

Among leading contenders for the director-generalship is Shas leader Arye Deri. Working against Deri is the fact that he has never served in the Israel Defence Forces, making him less than ideal even in the eyes of many ultra-Orthodox Shas supporters.
Deri is also young, under 30, and his only job before leading the party was as director of a Jerusalem yeshiva.
Another possibility is Rabbi Simcha Miron, former Religious Affairs Ministry head of the rabbinical courts. Both a qualified lawyer and a dayan (rabbinical court judge), Miron left his post following friction with Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi

Avraham Shapiro and Religious Affairs Minister Yosef Burg.
Since he was forced to retire, Miron has forged links with Shas, serving as the party's legal adviser, especially in connection with the Who Is A Jew law. If non-Sephardim are to be considered, then Miron's chances of succeeding Kubersky are good.
Among the other names mentioned for the post is that of Yosef Duek, a Jerusalem advocate. Duek is a Sephardi.
However, since Kubersky has indicated that his resignation takes effect in four months, Peretz is likely to take his time making the choice.

Search intensifies for man who shot tourist

By LIORA MORIEL
Jerusalem Post Reporter
BEERSHEBA. — Police have intensified their search for the man who shot a 20-year-old West German tourist last Friday near Kibbutz Revivim. "The Nature Reserve Authority and the Green Patrol have been informed of the case and asked to keep their eyes open," a police spokesman told reporters.
A picture of Miriam Stucker of Hamburg is being circulated in the media, and police are seeking witnesses to the crime. "Anyone who saw her on Friday from about 3 p.m. travelling south from Beersheba is asked to contact the nearest police station or telephone the Negev police at 057-37290 or 33451," the spokesman said.



Miriam Stucker (Israel Sun)

Police here said, "We are not set on any preconceived theory and are looking in all directions, including the one that the gunman in this case is the one who shot a woman soldier in the Negev last summer."
The soldier had recovered from her head wound and is no longer paralysed, but a neighbour told The Jerusalem Post yesterday that she has not got over the trauma. "She still says she was raped, although the police now say that she was not," he said.
The two English tourists on Kibbutz Revivim who heard the shots on their way to a picnic Friday after-

noon near the orchard where the tourist was found, reported that they had caught a glimpse of a fleeing man, possibly the assailant, as he ran to a late-model white car. They were some 200 metres away.
The young woman, who had been a volunteer at Kibbutz Manara in the north, worked with the mentally handicapped at an institution in Jerusalem. She left a note for a friend there on Friday, saying that she had no money and would be hitch-hiking to the south to visit her boyfriend. She was found unconscious the next afternoon.
Doctors here believe she has suffered irreparable brain damage.

Police believe killer murdered accomplice

By BARBARA AMOYAL
For The Jerusalem Post
Jerusalem police suspect that one of the two men held in the murder of Old City police intelligence chief Avraham Bayazi killed their suspected accomplice, Safwan Dahar, whose decomposing bullet-riddled body was found Sunday night in a cave near the village of Azaria.
Dahar had been missing since the shooting of Bayazi outside Jaffa Gate two months ago, and was apparently killed just after the murder.
Police persuaded 25-year-old Mahmoud Nurin, one of two suspects in the Bayazi murder case, to take them to the cave where the murder weapon was hidden. According to police sources, Nurin said on Sunday afternoon — for the first time since his arrest on February 1 — that he knew Dahar was dead and where the body was hidden. He also admitted that he had killed Dahar — in self-defence.
Near Dahar's body the police found a Kalashnikov assault rifle.

which they believe is the weapon that killed Bayazi, and an Uzi sub-machine gun.
One possibility being examined is that Dahar was killed by Nurin on the orders of Omar Faraj, the suspected leader and mastermind behind the plan to kill Bayazi.
It is believed that the three — Dahar, Faraj and Nurin — escaped from the scene of the murder in a blue Volkswagen Golf which was abandoned in Wadi Kadu, where police believe two cars were waiting for them.
One theory has Faraj and Nurin allegedly killing Dahar in Wadi Kadu, after which Faraj proceeded to his home in Silwan and Nurin drove to Azaria to dispose of the body and murder weapon. Another police theory has Faraj driving straight home to Silwan, where he allegedly destroyed clothing worn by the three at the time of the crime, and Nurin driving Dahar to Azaria, where the latter was subsequently killed.

SHAMIR SCORES

(Continued from Page One)
markers located?" Israel wants to ask them the question. "Where should the border-markers be located?"
Whereas Egypt insists that the arbitrators approve either the Egyptian case over Taba, or the Israeli case, Shamir said, Israel is suggesting that the arbitrators could adopt a position of their own.

The chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Abba Eban, said it was noteworthy that those who most opposed the Camp David agreements with Egypt in the past were those who today had the most inflated expectations of Egypt.
Eban said that Camp David had created two major assets for Israel: the fact that Egypt now recognized Israel and respected its sovereignty; and the fact that Egypt's departure from the path of belligerency had eased Israel's security load.
Eban yesterday received an official invitation from Egyptian chargé d'affaires Mohammed Bassiouny to lecture next month at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's training centre for diplomats.
ATTACK. — A bus belonging to the Ma'ale Efrayim Field School was attacked with a fire bomb yesterday evening three kilometres southwest of Nablus.

MIDDLE EAST

Extremists foiled in Cairo jailbreak

CAIRO (AP). — Police foiled an escape attempt yesterday by two Muslim fundi; nationalists serving jail terms in a Cairo prison, an Interior Ministry official said.
The two were caught within the compound of Tourah prison after they had broken out of their cell.
The men were convicted members of the fundamentalist Jihad organization that was blamed for the 1981 assassination of president Anwar Sadat and a subsequent attempt to overthrow the government. One was serving a 25-year term and the other a five-year term. They were among 107 fundamentalists imprisoned in the case.
The official said the two drilled a hole in the wall of their third-storey cell and used blankets to jump onto the roof of an adjoining mosque.
They were spotted by prison guards who sounded the alert and fired warning shots.
From the mosque roof the prisoners jumped into the prison kitchen through a ventilation window. They were caught there.

Karameh against deal with Israel in South

BEIRUT (AP). — Prime Minister Rashid Karameh rejected any security arrangements with Israel in South Lebanon yesterday demanding that Israelis withdraw unconditionally from South Lebanon.
Karameh also pledged government support to Moslems and leftists fighting the Israeli army and the South Lebanese Army in Israel's security zone.
"I say 'no' to security arrangements with the Israeli enemy. I say 'yes' to the national resistance against Israel in South Lebanon," Karameh said in a statement broadcast by state-run Beirut Radio.
The Sunni Moslem premier was commenting on reports that hard-line Christian leaders sympathetic with an Israeli demand that Lebanon negotiate security arrangements for the frontier region as a precondition for withdrawal.

Chinese president in Cairo for talks

CAIRO (AP). — President Li Xian-nian of China arrived here yesterday to begin the four-day official part of an eight-day visit to Egypt, the first by a Chinese head of state since the Communists took power in 1949.
President Hosni Mubarak greeted Li at Cairo International Airport, on a five-nation Africa-Asia tour, arrived Friday at Alexandria and spent three days sightseeing.
Li and Mubarak are to hold official talks today.
China has been a major supplier of arms to Egypt since the Soviet Union halted military aid in the mid-1970s. It has sold Egypt more than 100 warplanes and about 20 naval vessels, including four submarines.

Palestinians on trial for Swiss bomb attack

GENEVA (AP). — Two Palestinian men went on trial yesterday accused of planting bombs that exploded in the car of a high-ranking Syrian diplomat and in the Libyan airline office in Geneva last April. No one was hurt in the attacks.



Jerusalem's Ben-Yehuda mall

(Werner Braun)

Ben-Yehuda mall said 'one of finest in world'

By ABRAHAM RABINOVICH
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Jerusalemites relaxing from the grandeur of their city by having coffee at a sidewalk cafe on the Rehov Ben-Yehuda mall may be pleased to learn that even their seemingly unpretentious retreat holds significance for the Western world.
The street was described yesterday by a leading American urban expert, William Whyte, as one of the finest pedestrian malls he had ever seen. "Most U.S. cities desperately need what you have on Ben-Yehuda — pedestrian congestion," he said.
Whyte was speaking at the International Workshop on Heritage and Conservation, a week-long meeting of conservationists focusing on Jerusalem.
Whyte, author of *The Organization Man*, told the 150 participants that much urban development in recent years has been a refutation of the city — the construction of fortress-like projects designed to look like suburban shopping malls. "They're trying to get the middle class back to the city by offering them protection from the city," he said.
"Underground" concourses and "skywalks" lure the pedestrian away from the street, but the street, contends Whyte, is where he really wants to be. Supporting this contention are projects like Boston's Faneuil Hall Market which draws more visitors than Disneyland, and the South Street project in New

York City.
In an interview with The Jerusalem Post, Whyte said that the Ben-Yehuda mall, which he visited on Sunday, plainly worked because its population density — 4,600 persons passing a given point in an hour — matches that of downtown streets in major cities. "If people like a place, they come to it," he said.
The relatively simple mall succeeds where "very gimmicky" ones in other countries failed. Whyte hailed the stone planters on which people can sit, and thought there was room for more of them. He also thought there was room for some physical centerpiece that would give it distinction. Even as it is, however, he found it unsurpassed as a place for human contact.
The conference is jointly sponsored by the Jerusalem Municipality and the Conservation Foundation of Washington whose president, William Reilly, chaired yesterday's meeting at the Laromne Hotel.
At the opening ceremony on Sunday at the Cinemathèque, Mayor Teddy Kollek said that public participation in the planning process is sometimes inimical to the city's development. In an apparent slap at the Council for a Beautiful Israel's attacks on the Mamilla redevelopment project, which calls for the demolition of century-old buildings which the municipality maintains are of dubious value, Kollek said: "There is a need to curtail public participation in the form it now takes."

3 Israelis to play rugby in S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — A 22-member rugby union team with Jewish players from around the world is due in South Africa today for a month-long tour, rugby chief Danie Craven announced yesterday.
He said that the team would include players from Australia, Canada and Israel, and that the team would play against provincial and sub-union teams, but gave no further details.
International sporting links with South Africa are the subject of a boycott over Pretoria's apartheid laws. Last year a major tour by the New Zealand All Blacks was called off following protests.
Paul Kohn reports from Tel Aviv:
The Israel Maccabi Union said yesterday that an invitation to send a Maccabi team to tour South Africa was issued by Craven when he visited Israel 18 months ago. The proposal was turned down by World Maccabi, which refused to allow the team to call itself a Maccabi side.
Syril Morris, president of the Israeli Rugby Football Union, said that an invitation was also issued to the union, but was rejected. The union has nothing whatsoever to do with the tour, he said. He knows that three Israelis, two of them ex-South Africans and one an ex-Australian, have joined the tour, but they are doing so in a purely private capacity, and in no way represent Israel. He believes that the team includes seven Australians and three Americans.

Knesset Committee told: 'Textbooks snub Sephardim'

By JOEL REBIBO
for The Jerusalem Post

Sephardi Jews are depicted in school text books as being dirty, boorish, diseased, uneducated, superstitious and primitive. Dr. Ruth Firer told the Knesset Education Committee yesterday.
"There is no doubt that this stereotyping has caused deep emotional damage," said Firer, a high-school history teacher, who surveyed text books as part of her PhD thesis. "Today's teachers were reared on these images of Oriental Jews."
The Knesset committee was also presented with a page from a high-school phonetics text which notes that the letter *ayin* is pronounced one way by Oriental Jews, but "in our days like an *aleph*."
"The implicit message is that Sephardi pronunciation is obsolete," said Sam Ben-Shitrit, of the Am Ehad-Be'yahad movement. "This is a call to Sephardim to abandon their special pronunciation and become modern."
Ben-Shitrit challenged a 1966 his-

tory book that claimed that there were no Jewish youth movements in Morocco.
Though history books published after 1977 no longer describe Oriental Jews in derogatory terms, Firer pointed out that the old books are still widely used, "at times surreptitiously."
Firer said that the contribution of Oriental Jews to the founding of the state has been "isolated" from that of other Jews in the new text books, and that the history and culture of Oriental Jews throughout history are not taught to most pupils.
The Education Ministry's curriculum head, Shlomo Eliyahu, said that the ministry is willing to support any effort to write new texts. He added, however, that an integrated history of the Jewish people would run the risk of "obliterating the special nature of each group."

PNEUMONIA. — A Technion research team has developed a kit for the rapid detection of mycoplasma pneumoniae, the type most common in epidemics.

Vote today for 'quiet' convention

By ROY ISACOWITZ
Post Political Reporter
TEL AVIV. — Almost 300,000 members of the Labor Party are eligible to vote in today's elections for delegates to the party's convention, which will be held on April 8-10.

Unlike the recent Herut gathering, Labour's convention is likely to be a quiet affair. Electoral agreements have been reached in traditionally problematic branches, such as Beersheba and Ashdod. In those branches where the elections are being hotly contested, the tussle is largely of a generational or ideological character.
The convention will be attended by 3,101 delegates. One hundred delegates will represent groups which previously reached agreements with Labour, such as the factions of MKs Amnon Linn and Yitzhak Peretz, and 197 delegates will be appointed on the basis of their party stature. The rest, including Prime Minister Peres, will stand for election in their party branches.
Party Secretary-General Uzi Baram said yesterday that he expected the average age of the delegates to be significantly lower than at past conventions. Fully 45 per cent of the 133,000 new Labour Party members who signed up during the recent membership drive are under 35.

The convention's opening ceremony at Jerusalem's Binyanei Ha'uma will be "far less bombastic" than its Herut counterpart last week, Baram predicted. The "cultural" segment of the programme will focus on the centenary of the birth of David Ben-Gurion.
The convention's organizers are hoping that one of the European socialist prime ministers who have been invited to attend the convention will address the opening. Other speakers will include Peres and President Chaim Herzog, but not Vice Premier Shamir.

POPE

(Continued from Page One)
al dialogue between Jews and Christians, it was never openly solicited by the proud little Jewish community of 18,000 souls.
The forthcoming visit appears to be the outcome of contacts in the past three months between community leaders and papal envoys.
The community expressed its "satisfaction at the decision of Pope John Paul II to visit the synagogue of Rome" in a press statement issued last night. "This will mark an important step in the direction of an ever more rewarding dialogue."
Israel Lippel, former director-general of the Ministry for Religious Affairs and presently the head of a centre for interfaith understanding in Jerusalem, also welcomed the visit, but failed to see any great significance in it.
"Christianity and the Roman Catholic Church have a longstanding debt to the Jewish people and it won't be cancelled by such acts," he said.
Lippel added that he would like to see fewer demonstrations, such as the visit, and more concrete acts.
First in importance was the area of Catholic education concerning the Jews, and, after that, Vatican recognition of Israel.

Soldier confesses to faking kidnapping

Jerusalem Post Reporter
Police last night set up roadblocks in Hadera to stop a taxi with three Arabs who had supposedly tried to kidnap a soldier, but called off the operation when the soldier confessed that he had made up the story in order to escape punishment for being AWOL for several days.
The soldier stopped a police car earlier last night after he had cut himself with broken glass to make his kidnapping story more convincing. He was treated in hospital, but broke down later under police questioning and revealed the truth.

Testimony heard on bank embezzlement

An American couple testified yesterday in the investigation of the embezzlement of \$25 million from the Jerusalem branch of the North American Bank that over \$600,000 had been transferred from their account to Switzerland without their knowledge.
Miriam and Bernard Hochstein were testifying in the Jerusalem District Court in the investigation into the role of Hadassah Monash, who was acting manager of the bank. Monash has not been charged.
Moshe Stern, who was manager of the bank when the funds were allegedly embezzled, left the country before the money was discovered missing last September. He is due to be extradited from France this week. (Itim)

The Union of Councils for Soviet Jews
Washington, DC 20005
announces its
1986 Annual Conference in Israel
The public is invited to participate in the session
Israel Policy on Soviet Jewry
on Wednesday, March 19
at 9.30 a.m. (corrected time)
The conference will be held at:
The Windmill Hotel, 3 Mondelo Street, Jerusalem
Members of the Soviet Jewry Education and Information Centre (SJEIC) are welcome to attend the opening session on March 18 at 9.30 a.m.
For further information, please contact the SJEIC at 02-636279.

I would like to extend my deep thanks
to the doctors, nurses and staff of the Geriatric Intensive Care and Gastro-Enterology departments of the Shaare Zedek Hospital, for the wonderful care and treatment which they gave my dear husband
Meyer
during his last illness.
I am truly grateful.
Mrs. Meyer Cohen

The Academic Advisory Council to the World ORT Union
extends sincerest condolences to
Prof. Ephraim Katzir
on the death of his beloved wife
NINA

A cabinet colleague's assessment:

'Every day... Sharon moves closer to his goal'

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Reporter

Industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon has been described by some cabinet ministers as "probably the most programmed politician in Israel today."

This assessment was made before Sharon advanced his fortunes within Herut at the abortive party convention. One minister said subsequently: "Look how Ariel Sharon used Housing Minister David Levy as cannon-fodder in his war of attrition against Vice Premier Yitzhak Shamir."

A senior cabinet minister who has never quarrelled with Sharon said six months ago: "It is nothing new for a politician here to focus all his ambition on getting the leadership of his party and then the premiership. Sharon is unique because he does not let one single day go by without taking steps and making statements which can bring him closer to his goal."

Sharon has created the impression that he leaves nothing to chance. At the Herut convention, as at other assemblies in the past, he timed his exits and his entrances. And from Herut's founder and former leader, Menachem Begin, whom he destroyed, Sharon learned well the orator's trick of planning his spontaneous outbursts well ahead of time.

A man who has observed Sharon closely, both in the cabinet and the inner cabinet, assured me that the industry and trade minister rarely plays it by ear, and rarely makes off-the-cuff contributions to a discussion in those two top forums.

He told *The Jerusalem Post*: "When Sharon takes an interest in some issue, he does his homework intensively, unlike so many of us. It is obvious to us that he reads vast



Ariel Sharon (Rahamim Israeli)

quantities of material, making sure he has a broad picture at his fingertips. He comes to the meetings, not only having decided what he will stress in that broad picture, but also what he will ignore or gloss over."

Unlike many cabinet ministers, who seem to feel obliged to get their names and comments in the cabinet record, even if their understanding leaves something to be desired, Sharon often says nothing at meetings of the cabinet and the inner cabinet. As one of his colleagues put it: "Arik knows how to bear the burden of self-imposed silence. Not everyone has that gift."

That applies to topics on which Sharon does not hold strong opinions. However, on topics which interest him intensely, he is capable of coming back to the same argument time and again during the same meeting, as well as in one meeting after another. "Sharon is quite aware that he will not win the vote, often enough, but that doesn't matter to him. He is speaking for the record, for history, for his set of personal files on every burning issue

and each one of his colleagues with whom he has had a difference of opinion during the past 30 and more years."

At meetings of the cabinet and the inner cabinet, Sharon has made it a regular practice to quote what he said on past occasions, and what his colleagues said. He prepares these quotes beforehand for a specific discussion, so that he can prove how he was right and others were wrong.

The Post was told: "We sit there getting the impression again and again that he has scores to settle with so many people. He is not upset at being outvoted, but he will never admit to being in the wrong."

A typical case is the inner cabinet decision on the boundaries of the security zone in Southern Lebanon. Whenever a serious incident occurs there, Sharon reminds the other nine ministers in the senior forum that he was in a minority of one, demanding that the Litani River form the zone's boundary.

"Sharon asks for the floor and says he wants to say something for the record. He says he wants to remind us that events prove we made a grave mistake. He knows that not only are the Alignment men in the inner cabinet against him, but also the four Likud men. He wants to store away ammunition against his own party as well as the Alignment, and say one day 'I told you so'."

The issues on which Sharon never tires of hammering away include the need to strike at PLO centres in Jordan, the danger of concessions to Egypt over Tabat, and the nature of the security zone in Southern Lebanon.

When Begin still headed the government, Sharon acted the same way with regard to the plan to invade Lebanon.

A former minister told me Sharon

brought up the proposal six or seven times and paid no attention to the opposition among his colleagues, till at last he wore them down sufficiently to get a majority for the Lebanon operation.

This former minister said: "He got his way with us for several reasons, two of them being that he did his homework better than others and persevered longer than others."

Sharon has also become a past master at exploiting his portfolio to buttress his support inside the party, so that his ministry can become a stepping stone on his ascent to the leadership of Herut.

While he was defence minister he transformed his office in Tel Aviv's Harkira into a party clubroom every Friday. His lieutenants would invite select groups of Herut central committee members to get a personal briefing from the minister on the country's security problems. There were maps of the Middle East on the wall behind him; by giving the party rank and file the impression that they were important enough and trustworthy enough to share the secrets of state, Sharon bought their personal loyalty. His lieutenants sent other groups on free trips around the West Bank to see Sharon's personal contribution to the resettlement of Eretz Yisrael.

Today, Sharon makes a point of visiting development towns as often as possible for consultations related to the work of the Industry and Trade Ministry. He then channels as much investment as he can to these towns. He also makes a point of inviting the local Herut branch chairman to all his meetings, even though the township politico has no connection at all with the matters on hand. The hint is plain, however. "Here's my man. Here's my party card. Here's my cash."



Motti Giladi hugs his wife and child after he and Sari Tzuril win the local Eurovision song contest in the Jerusalem Theatre. (Rahamim Israeli)

Local entry in Eurovision contest

Best of 12, but unlikely to wow them in Norway

By DAVID HOROWITZ

"Yavo Yom" (A Day Will Come), chosen Sunday night to represent Israel in the 1986 Eurovision song contest, was probably the best of the 12 competing numbers but is unlikely to win the contest.

Eurovision demands a song that is easy to remember and has a catchy chorus. "Yavo Yom" fulfills both of these requirements. It does not, however, have that certain spark that distinguished "A-Ba-Ni-Bi," "Hallelujah" or "Hai."

Moti Giladi, who co-wrote and co-performed this year's song (Yoram Zadok wrote the music), has admitted that he would rather not have sung it himself. At Sunday night's performance, his voice sounded as if he was singing under water. Still, he and co-singer Sari Tzuril were a good deal more polished than, say, Rita, who spent most of her three minutes apparently

struggling to keep her jacket on.

Perhaps the most distinctly Israeli entry was that of Haim Moshe, but his act was spoiled by unsynchronized dancing.

Viewers who missed Sunday's programme will not be able to hear the song again until the finals in Norway on May 3, under competition rules.

Giladi has entered previous Eurovision preliminaries as a lyricist and a composer, but never before as a singer. He is regarded as a stand-up comic and impersonator.

Tzuril is better known as an actress than as a singer.

The 12 songs heard on Sunday night were selected from among 600 entries by a special committee headed by Broadcasting Authority deputy chairman David Admon. The 12 songs were judged by seven 11-member panels in Tel Aviv, Eilat, Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, Haifa, Herzliya and Or Akiva.

How's your body language?

By LEA LEVAVI

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — Teaching Hebrew in Ulpan is not enough — Israeli "body language" should also be taught, according to an educational sociologist at Bar-Ilan University.

Raphael Schneller, who has been researching body language in Israel for many years, has concluded that all new immigrants, particularly Ethiopian immigrants, risk being misunderstood because different groups attach different meanings to the same gestures.

In a recent study of Ethiopian immigrants, Schneller found that the "hand push," which means "leave me alone" to an Israeli, is a friendly greeting to an Ethiopian. The "hand flick," which means "enough already" to an Israeli, means "I love you" to a newcomer from Ethiopia.

"They should be taught our gestures and given the chance to ask what they mean, in order to avoid misunderstandings," Schneller said. "But we must also learn what their gestures mean, and we are now trying to compile a dictionary of nonverbal language to be used by those who help absorb Ethiopian immigrants."

He emphasized that he is in favour of immigrants maintaining their nonverbal language among themselves if they wish, just as they may prefer to speak in their native tongue among themselves. At the same time, he said, learning Israeli gestures should be part of their absorption process.

Kupat Holim Clalit: The tragedy of inefficiency

By MACABEE DEAN

Jerusalem Post Reporter

Some years ago, before Asher Yadin was caught with his fingers in the Kupat Holim Clalit till, thus changing his status from the health fund's rising star to its fallen angel, he sought to improve procedures at the Mor Medical Institute.

The theory of annual checkups to nip ailments in the bud was in its ascendancy then. At Mor, a healthy person (at least one who believed he was healthy) underwent a series of tests to discover any present or potential ailment. The tests took a few hours. But it was at least a week before the results were available from Clalit's Zamenhoff clinic.

Yadin threatened the clinic: "Look, I can put the medical tests on a plane this afternoon, have them in New York by tomorrow morning, have them analysed in hours, and have them back here within 48 hours. And all this will cost less. Can't you match this? A lame man using a cane can walk from Mor to Zamenhoff in three hours."

Zamenhoff did reduce the time needed to perform the tests, but not by much.

This true story would be another interesting anecdote were it not so tragic, because the lack of efficiency in Kupat Holim Clalit is costing the organization huge sums, and is one of the reasons for its debts.

How efficient are Kupat Holim workers? No one, as far as we know, has compared their productivity with similar organizations abroad. But if the general rate of productivity in Israel is any indication, then Clalit lags considerably behind organizations in Europe, not to mention the U.S.

In Clalit, the workers are deeply imbued with the socialist philosophy concerning the rights of the workers. This philosophy rarely mentions the obligations of employees to work at a high level of efficiency. It is up to

the capitalistic employers to do this, but Kupat Holim Clalit is run by the Histadrut.

If, however, it were only the workers and lab technicians who were inefficient, things might be bearable. But the situation is much worse.

Clalit runs two different medical systems, its clinics and its hospitals, and the twin generally meet only when patients go from one to the other. The patients and documents, but rarely doctors, are the connecting links.

The hospital doctors consider the level of medicine practised in the clinics so low that they make their own tests. Nearly everything is repeated in the hospitals.

But repeating everything costs money.

In fairness to Clalit, its critics concede that, for years, it has run its hospitals more efficiently than any other network. This is partly due to the "warm bed" policy instituted by Prof. Haim Doron, who succeeded Yadin as director-general. As soon as one patient leaves, the bed is cleaned up, and another patient is put into it as soon as possible.

Nevertheless, personnel at the Herzliya Medical Centre, which is private, claim that costs at any Israeli hospital could be sharply reduced if the patient were thoroughly diagnosed before admission. At present, these tests are done after the patient is admitted, and are generally time-consuming, because the laboratories — except in emergencies — stick to a normal day's routine. Thus, expensive equipment stands idle in most cases for 16 hours of the day. Were it exploited around the clock, the patient's stay would be considerably shortened, and the "warm bed" policy could become a "hot bed" one.

It would also be possible to reduce the flow of patients into hospitals if the clinic doctors' work load were reduced. They could then spend

more time with each patient, and try to sift out those with fairly serious ailments who could then be treated outside hospital. The simplest way to ease clinic doctors' work loads would be to charge a nominal fee for each visit. This would not only bring in a tidy income to Clalit, but would also keep away some of the borderline hypochondriacs who are also sensitive about spending money.

But charging for visits goes against the ideological grain of the Histadrut, which favours a system that gives everybody a chance to see a doctor, even if this prevents the truly sick from getting the help they need.

Hospital doctors cost money. Not so much in wages, for they can honestly claim that they are brutally underpaid, but in their demands for the latest medical equipment and institutes.

How many cardiology institutes, for example are needed in Greater Tel Aviv with a population of roughly one million? Nobody really knows, for no one has ever conducted a survey. But such a survey would be a waste of money, because its results would be hotly disputed by the medical profession.

Doctors demand these institutes, otherwise they cannot practise medicine at its highest levels. They will never admit that the needs of Greater Tel Aviv could be met with one, possibly two, institutes. Yet there are many more.

If each hospital does not have its "institute," the best medical brains will go elsewhere, either in Israel or abroad. A hospital without such institutes will soon fall in rank, and patients will seek admission to an overcrowded hospital, while another is half empty.

Thus, if coddling patients imposes a financial burden on the medical setup, not coddling the doctors would cause the level of medicine to fall. Part of the system of coddling doctors was to build 500 flats for

them — to help keep them in the country.

Despite all this coddling, how high is the level of hospital medicine in Israel?

Israel has some of the best hospital physicians in the world, but most hospitals lack needed equipment. Much equipment is acquired by intensive, old-fashioned *schmorring* which yields sporadic results from patrons abroad. Israel also has some mediocre hospital physicians, because the system of advanced training is highly defective.

The American-trained product is generally much superior to the Israeli.

The low level of hospital medicine and of advanced training will be hotly denied by many members of the medical profession, especially by the heads of organizations like the health funds and the Health Ministry. They constantly produce experts from abroad who claim that Israel has a high level of medicine, but these experts are carefully selected to substantiate the viewpoints of their hosts.

If one applies the "better mousetrap principle," namely, that people go where they can get a better product, then Israeli doctors rush to do their advanced training abroad. As for the patients, we have yet to see them board planes and fly here to get the best medical treatment in the world.

What we see instead are Israelis going abroad for treatment.

(The third and last article in a series.)

Bat-Dor sparkles in ballet diplomacy

By Dora Sowden

The visit of the Bat-Dor Dance Company to Poland "has turned out to be not only a cultural-political event, but a great artistic success," the company's general manager said yesterday.

Speaking to *The Jerusalem Post* from Warsaw, Barry Swersky added: "It has been truly wonderful."

The Bat-Dor is the first visit of an Israeli cultural troupe to Poland since that country severed ties with Israel in 1967.

Social contacts have also been beyond expectations and hopes. Swersky said. "The Polish agency Pagart has been wonderfully professional, the tour organization first class, and the visit obviously treated as a major event. Polish television has given it extensive coverage, and so have the newspapers, with many

pictures and interviews," he said.

All the performances in Warsaw and Lodz have been sold out. In Warsaw, both performances received prolonged applause.

In Lodz, where there are connoisseur audiences because many international festivals are held in the city, Bat-Dor's artistic director Jeannette Ordman and the company received a 15-minute ovation at the first performance after Rodney Griffin's *Puff Vaudeville*. On the second night, Miriam Paskalsky got tremendous applause in Igal Perry's *Meditations*.

"By special invitation, Jeannette and Rada Sheta will take part in the gala performance on March 22 in 14-minute excerpt from Domy Reiter-Soffer's *After Midnight*."

"We were given a reception by the director of the Warsaw Grand Theatre who has invited the com-

pany back for the 1988 International Festival," continued Swersky. "And when the Polish classical ballet in Warsaw held a reception for us, the artistic director recalled that she and Jeannette had served on the jury at the International Ballet Competition in Jackson, Mississippi."

"When the Mazowsze company invited us to their centre in the Karolin castle outside Warsaw, they gave us a half-hour performance and sang two Hebrew songs, and Madam Ziminska, the artistic director, danced us to the bus in a jolly Polonaise. She is 85."

Among those participating in the gala on March 22 are dancers from Cuba and the Royal Ballet (London), as well as Polish companies.

Security precautions were especially visible in Lodz, where there is a large number of Arab students.

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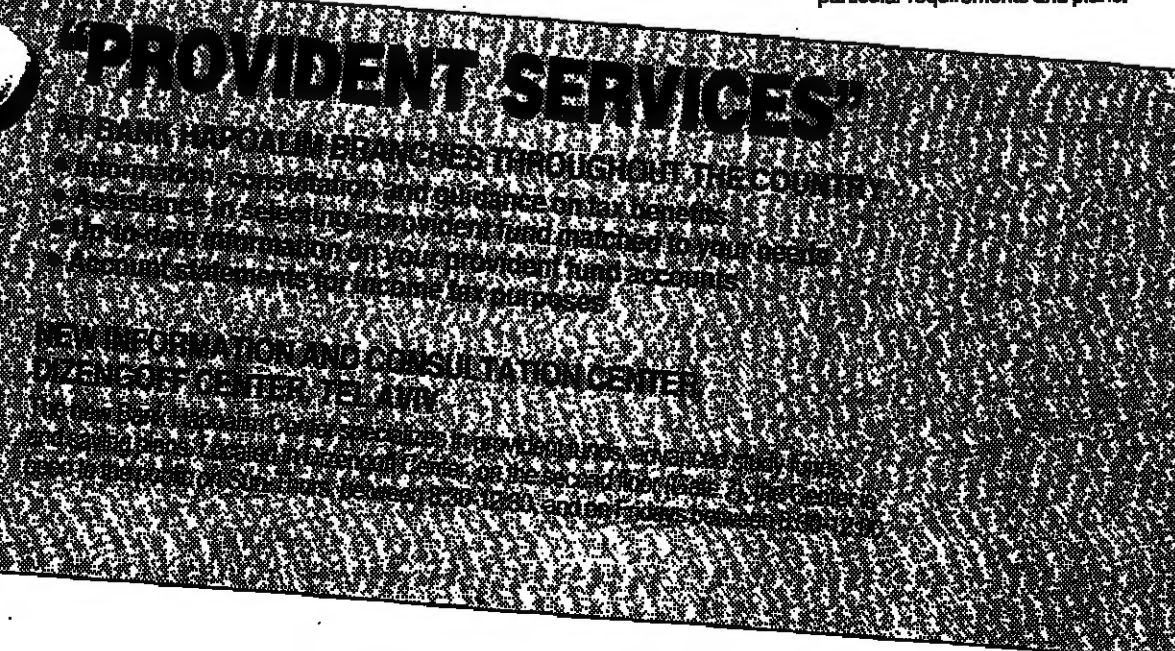
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Despite defeat for his party

French president unscathed

By PAUL CHUTKOW
Jerusalem Post Correspondent
PARIS. — France appears to be entering an uncertain period of "cohabitation" government, following Sunday's election in which fewer than one voter in three gave a vote of confidence to President Mitterrand's Socialist Party.

In many countries, such a poor showing by the party in power might be recognized as a major electoral defeat, a cause for soul-searching among the losers. But not in France.

Indeed, Mitterrand may emerge from the elections with most of his long-range political strategy intact, as well as his reputation as the master player in France's political chess game.

There is no denying the setback for his Socialist Party, which swept to power in 1981, on the heels of Mitterrand's election as president, with an absolute majority in the National Assembly.

Prime Minister Laurent Fabius went to the Elysee Palace yesterday to inform the president his government was ready to submit its resignation.

No president in the republic's 28-year history has had to try to govern with a hostile parliament before. Mitterrand's first challenge was to pick a prime minister from the new right-wing majority.

On Sunday, before all the results were in, the president told reporters he envisioned a "tranquil" period to assess the results of the twin ballots, for the national legislature and regional governments.

There are plenty of conflicting trends to assess, with at least two fitting nicely into the president's long-range strategy for the Socialist Party. Other trends obviously will weigh heavily on his immediate short-term constitutional obligation: whom to name as head of the next government?

The most spectacular, and potentially troublesome factor is the unexpected rise of the openly racist National Front Party led by ex-paratrooper Jean Marie Le Pen.

From a group with next to no national standing, Le Pen's party, with its anti-immigrant and tough law-and-order themes, will now become a presence in the National Assembly with more than 30 deputies.

The two main conservative parties on Sunday night reaffirmed their pledge not to govern with Le Pen. But now it will be too difficult to ignore him and the over 10 per cent of the vote he elicited.

The rise of Le Pen — who says he is anti-Arab but not anti-Jewish — was paralleled by the poor showing of the French Communist Party led by

Georges Marchais. Falling below 10 per cent of the vote, and winning only 35 seats, the Communist Party's showing touched off the usual speculation about the imminent downfall of Marchais.

For the time being, electoral performance can be seen as a success for Mitterrand's stated objective of "marginalizing" the communists and making his Socialist Party the dominant force on the left.

Significantly, too, 1981's "union of the left," which helped bring the socialists to power in the first place, now appears a dead issue. In post-ballot television debates the communists were the most outspoken critics of the outgoing socialist government.

Sunday's elections also set the stage for another step in the president's long-range political strategy: the emergence of two centrist political formations that can alternate power in "Anglo-Saxon" style.

By not being routed the socialists showed that their five-year rule was popular. Indeed, socialist leaders like Fabius put the accent on the party's record-high score of some 31 per cent of the popular vote. That should help them become a strong and cohesive opposition force.

Now comes the difficult period of "cohabitation," when the socialist



Extreme right wing, National Front Party leader, Jean-Marie Le Pen addresses his supporters to announce that his party has taken 10 per cent of the vote in the elections to the French National Assembly.

president will have to find a *modus vivendi* with the conservative majority government.

In the short term, both sides will probably demonstrate flexibility in an effort to keep foreign policy and defence issues above partisan politics. Already, both sides have managed to keep the hostage crisis in Lebanon out of the final election campaign.

One significant poll emphasized by the socialists showed on Sunday that 61 per cent of France's 55 million people hope that his period of co-

habitation will be successful and that Mitterrand will not be forced from power before the end of his mandate in 1988.

But what remains uncertain is how the nuts and bolts of power-sharing and cohabitation will work. Already there have been heated debates about conflicting interpretations of the French constitution.

The narrowness of the outcome gives the president leeway in his search for a prime minister.

One name frequently mentioned is Jacques Chaban-Delmas, mayor

of Bordeaux, a respected Resistance hero, and old-line Gaullist, and a personal friend of the president.

Mitterrand could turn to some reassuring centrist figure like Simone Veil, former president of the European Parliament and one of France's most respected political figures.

A survivor of Auschwitz, Veil would become France's first woman prime minister, just the sort of historic choice that might appeal to both the historian and grand strategist in Mitterrand.

17 die in S.A. violence

JOHANNESBURG (Reuters). — A weekend of violence claimed 17 more lives in South Africa indicating that the current wave of protest by the black majority over the country's race laws is showing no signs of receding.

Police yesterday reported that in overnight unrest, police shot dead a man during rioting close to the sleepy holiday resort of Knysna in the Cape Province.

This took the weekend death toll

to at least 17 people, 14 of them killed at gold mines — an industry which produces about half of South Africa's foreign earnings.

Attacks on white homes have been rare in the country's two years of sustained violence in which well over 1,300 have died. Most of the rioting has taken place in black townships which are isolated from most of the country's white residential areas by Pretoria's race legislation.

Reagan fighting for aid for Nicaraguan 'Contras'

WASHINGTON (AP). — President Ronald Reagan is seeking to link Nicaragua's leftist government with drug smuggling and the murder of four U.S. Marines as he presses for the votes he still needs in Congress to resume rearming Nicaraguan guerrillas.

Reagan made the charges in a televised address Sunday night while

appealing for public and Congressional support for his embattled proposal to send \$100m. in military supplies and non-lethal support to the rebel forces. The House, which is under Democratic control, is scheduled to vote on the proposition Thursday.

Following Reagan's speech, the Nicaraguan embassy said his policy of support for the rebels, known as Contras, could "trigger a bloody regional war in Central America."

In his speech, Reagan warned that the aid programme is needed "for the defence of our own southern frontier."

"For our own security the U.S. must deny the Soviet Union a beachhead in North America... It is not Nicaragua alone that threatens us, but those using Nicaragua as a privileged sanctuary for their struggle against the U.S.," the president declared.

Communist rebels kill twelve in Philippines

CEBU, Philippines. — Communist rebels firing high-powered rifles ambushed local militia and civilians travelling in a van on Negros Island, killing 12 and seriously wounding four others, military officials said yesterday.

The rebels attacked the militiamen and government oil company employees Saturday as they drove from a meeting with villagers in Amlan, about 600 kilometres south of Manila, said Central Visayas Islands Commander Col. Jose Santos.

In a campaign for reconciliation since replacing Ferdinand Marcos on February 26, President Corason Aquino has called on the Communist New Peoples' Army, estimated by the government to number 15,000, to lay down their arms and meet with the government.

It was "the second depredation perpetrated by the Communist rebels in two days in total disregard of

the new government pleas for reconciliation," Santos said, referring to a Friday attack which killed 10 militiamen on nearby Bohol Island.

Santos said government troops have stopped their armed counter-insurgency operations, "limiting activities to civic action and public information campaigns."

Meanwhile, a 1976 pact that was concluded during Marcos' reign has become the centrepiece of Aquino's efforts to end a Moslem rebellion in the southern Philippines.

Aquino and many Moslem leaders, including the heads of two of the three factions of the separatist Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF), agree that the key to peace in the Moslem regions is the Tripoli ceasefire agreement signed in the Libyan capital in December 1976 by a Marcos emissary and MNLF chairman Nur Misuari. (AP, AFP)

Glubb Pasha, Arab Legion head, dies



LONDON (AP). — Sir John Glubb, who as "Glubb Pasha" was commander of the Arab Legion and one of the most powerful men in the Middle East, died Monday at age 88.

His family announced that he died peacefully in his sleep at his home in Mayfield, in Sussex where he retired in 1956 after the young Jordanian monarch, King Hussein, dismissed him to put an Arab in control of his army.

Glubb's crack Jordanian troops helped to set the post-war map of the Middle East by conquering the West Bank of the Jordan River and East Jerusalem in the fighting that followed the end of the British Mandate over Palestine in 1948.

Often seen in a red Bedouin head-dress, Glubb would ride on camels or on horseback with his troops. He identified with the Arab way of life, endearing himself to his troops and helping to maintain British influence in the Middle East before and after World War II.

FOREIGN NEWS IN BRIEF

Bomb injures 9 on Paris-Lyon train

BRUNOY, France (AFP). — A bomb ripped through a car of a Lyon-bound train yesterday, injuring nine people, seven of them seriously, officials said. The bomb was placed in the baggage area at the end of a passenger car. It went off 12 minutes after the train pulled out of Paris and before the special high-speed train picked up full speed. It was not immediately known if the person who planted the bomb was a passenger on the train.

'No comment' on Andrew's engagement

LONDON (Reuters). — Buckingham Palace kept Britons in a royal ferment yesterday over reports that Prince Andrew and his latest girlfriend, Sarah Ferguson, had become engaged and would marry in Westminster Abbey later this year.

"When there is something to say, it will be said," a palace spokeswoman told a reporter. "In the meantime, we have absolutely no comment to make." Ferguson, a 26-year-old sales executive, ran the gauntlet of excited correspondents and photographers when she arrived at her London office yesterday. Queen Elizabeth's second son, who is fourth in line for the throne and regarded as one of the world's most eligible bachelors, kept out of the public eye.

U.S. to return Nazi-era art to Germany

PUEBLO, Colorado (AP). — After years of being stored in obscurity in an army warehouse, 128 Nazi-era paintings are to be returned to the families of the artists in Germany, officials said Sunday.

They are part of a collection of 252 large paintings kept in the Pueblo army depot for 14 years, a fraction of the total art collection brought to the U.S. after World War II.

The paintings are the works of 80 German artists commissioned by Adolf Hitler to portray a strong and resolute Germany. A panel of American army personnel and civilians decided which paintings are to be returned. No paintings that depict "propagandism, or portraits of war leaders or criminals" will be returned, the army's art curator, Marylou Gjernes, said.

MAJOR DEAL. — India has signed a major deal with the American Control Data Corp.

SPORTS
TA Marathon

By PAUL KOHN
TEL AVIV. — Some 5,000 men, women and youths will run over various distances in the 6th Tel Aviv marathon, which will take place from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. next Sunday.

Runners from Hungary, Rumania, France, Belgium and Denmark, besides UN and U.S. Sinai Force personnel, will join some 100 Israelis in contesting the full marathon. Over 1,000 have registered for the half-marathon over 21.1 kms. Both these races will start and end at the Histadrut headquarters in Arlosoroff Street.

Nearly 4,000 are expected to join in the popular run over four kms. Among the full marathon runners will be Christian Zimmermann, Michel Schwind and Claude Rollin of France, Alexandru Chiran and Gheorghe Sandu of Rumania, all of whom have best times of between 2.17 hours to 2.20. Arka Vastag of Hungary claims the best time among the women runners with 2:38.20.

Among the local men will be Avi Appel, Gad Kertsky and Zion Naggar and among the women Rose Seldan and Ety Attias. Yari Karni and Arrie Gamliel will only run the half-marathon.

Yitzhak Ofek, the Secretary of Histadrut, organizers of the event, said yesterday that running marathons from abroad nowadays received "lots of money" for their participation in marathons. The participants from Hungary and Rumania had all their expenses paid by Histadrut. No prize money will be paid to the winners of Sunday's races. The sponsors include the Hilton Hotel, which will accommodate the overseas participants, and hold receptions, without any charge. Ofek expressed disappointment that no Zionist Soviet Olympic committee was among the sponsors of this Histadrut happening.

The police will use over 700 of its men and women and a helicopter patrol to take care of security, order and traffic. Four hundred volunteers, including army units and scouts, will help the organizers. The route of the marathon runs southwards along Biala, Ben Gurion and Yehuda Halevi streets, then northwards along Rothschild Boulevard and the length of Dizengoff, the Levi Eshkol road and back, and then a wide sweep along Rokach Boulevard to the Ramat Gan stadium and back through Abba Hillel Silver and Ben Benayahu roads.

Police urge drivers to leave their cars at home and to use public transport.

Border's sportmanship

Post Sports Staff and Agencies
Allan Border, the Australian captain, was the hero of the third and last Test between New Zealand and Australia here, despite the fact that Australia lost the match and the series.

New Zealand batsman Ken Rutherford, with his score at 18, touched a ball from Stephen Waugh that entered the gloves of wicket-keeper Tim Zoehrer. Rutherford was given out. But Border asked Zoehrer if the ball had not touched the ground before he caught it, and Zoehrer said he thought it had. Border then recalled Rutherford to go on batting, and umpire Roger McHarg reversed his decision. Such sporting gestures are rare in modern sport.

Rutherford went on to make 50 not out, and to give New Zealand an 8-wicket victory. Australia 314 and 183 (Ken Rutherford took 10 for 94 in the match with his off-spinners). New Zealand 258 and 160 for 2.

In Barbados, Ian Botham made 70 and Peter Willey 60 to take England to 312 in their second innings, 266 ahead of Barbados.

Jezreel are champs

By DAVID SILVERMAN
JEZREEL. — Kibbutz Jezreel became once more the rugby union champions of Israel, when they drew the last match of the season 0-0 with their chief rivals for the crown, ASA Jerusalem. The draw put them one point ahead of Jerusalem in the league table.

In other games Tel Aviv beat Gali Hadyot 15-4 and Ramat Gan defeated Be'er Sheva 36-13. The 7-side tournament in memory of Dado Silverwits will take place at Jezreel on April 5. Participation is open to all teams, providing they register by April 1 with Zimra at Tel 065-94513.

Tamara steals the show

By PAUL KOHN
HERZLIYA. — Twelve-year-old Tamara Frolo stole the limelight in the annual Dan Accadia Tennis Championships by taking the women's singles title. In the final she beat Hadasa Alon 6-4, 6-1. She was also runner-up in the Under 18, where she lost to 6-3, 6-4 by Yael Landau.

Eighteen-year-old Yaron Gelfand won the men's singles in the annual Dan Accadia Tennis Championships, beating another IDF soldier, Oren Gossy, in the final, 1-6, 7-6, 6-4. In the semi-finals Gelfand beat Ezra Gazit 6-2, 7-4. Gossy beating Paul Goldstein 7-5, 6-2.

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By Jeanne Weisgal

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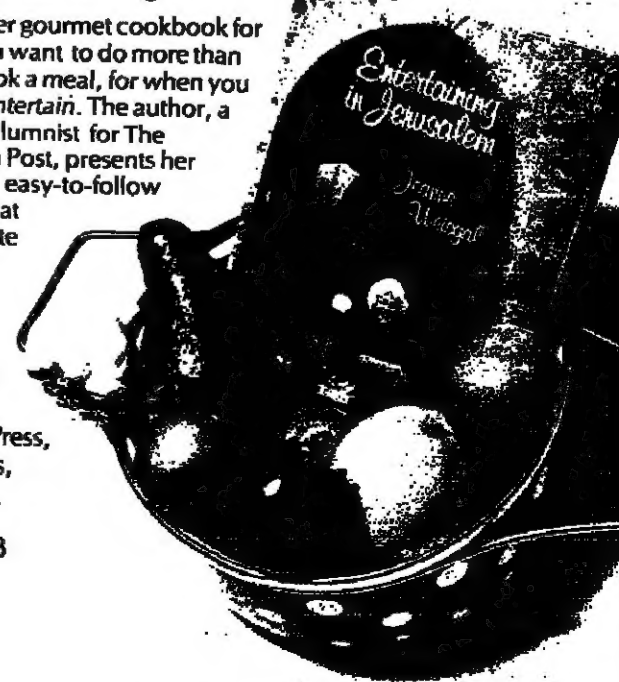
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A letter to Syrian President Hafez Assad from Amnon Dankner

'We carry a burden of animosity'

Dear Mr. President,

Your aspiration, expressed in your speech of a fortnight ago, to include my present abode in the "southern part of Syria" has come as quite a shock. All my life I have tried to avoid living in southern districts or neighbourhoods, the northern ones being more prosperous and more advanced socially and culturally. This is an almost universal rule (*pace* my Texan friends). I have always refused to become a southerner; even your obvious charisma and deep conviction cannot persuade me to abandon my lifelong preferences.

Seriously, though, your speech surprised me, because it has never been considered your wont to utter such vehement threats. On the contrary: you have always been regarded here as a prudent, skilful and dangerously calculating adversary who is not given to verbal outbursts, but who, though brandishing the big stick, tends to speak softly or at least carefully.

This reputation as a doer rather than a wordmonger has caused a certain amount of nervousness in Jerusalem and Washington as a result of your speech.

Some analysts maintain that your speech was for home consumption, designed to divert the attention of your people from the growing economic crisis to the consensus-inspiring Israeli-Syrian playground.

This is an old Middle Eastern tradition, and it has been noted that the threats of war were delivered in the context of a speech that dealt mainly with the economic situation in your country.

NEVERTHELESS, since you are a perpetual enigma, one cannot say, "There is a perfectly simple explanation for all this," and carry on as usual.

With you there will always exist the possibility that things are not what they seem. The reason is that we don't know what your

strategic goals really are, what sort of a Middle East map you deem desirable and conceivable at the end of the day, when all is over and done with.

We know what the Egyptians want; we know what the Jordanians want; and we even have a pretty good idea about the desires of mainstream Palestinian leaders. But we still cannot fathom your real intentions. Like you, we carry a burden of animosity in its crudest form: unyielding, uncompromising, brutal in its psychology, archaic, almost biblical in its comprehensiveness.

But does all this spell imminent war? I for one doubt it. There would be a stronger case for the more pessimistic view if you were profoundly occupied with the question of the Golan Heights. But as you have never shown any interest in any sort of a *quid pro quo* on that subject, it is quite evident that you don't consider the Golan problem an issue by itself, separate from a comprehensive solution of the Arab-Israeli conflict. A sudden war might disturb the diplomatic stagnation, and even the almost complete Israeli political consensus on the future of the Golan Heights. But this is not what you are really after.

You are striving to make a point, and the point is that as between two methods of dealing with Israel, the Egyptian and the Syrian, the latter, though arduous and calling for sacrifice and patience, will bring better results. This kind of tactic does not seem to dictate war now. After all, you can congratulate yourself on your present situation: the peace process between Israel, Jordan and the Palestinians is receding, if it has not already vanished into thin air.

Syrian hegemony in most of Lebanon is virtually uncontested; and Israel is constantly disturbed by painful and morale-shattering terrorist attacks both in southern Lebanon and abroad,

most of which are planned and assisted by your intelligence services.

To this you may add occasional spells of tension that sometimes force us to mobilize in fear of a potential attack. Meanwhile, there you are, sitting tight and looking good.

Still, you may find some quiet pondering useful.

Is your policy free of peril? Can military tension always be checked, and can one be certain that things will not get out of hand? Even the most ardent admirers of Israel must admit that its defence policy and practice contain a strong neurotic element. A growing menace combining verbal threats with alarming troop deployments may drive her to unpredictable and sometimes disproportionate behaviour, as recent history has shown more than once.

Until now, though, your policy has not reached an ominous stage. You are, as it were, on the brink of brinkmanship, and considering your reputation as a usually prudent statesman, I think it is quite safe to predict that you will leave it at that and will not take one or — God forbid — two steps forward.

While I cannot escape the feeling that eventually there is going to be an outbreak of hostilities, the chances are that this will happen later rather than sooner. Meanwhile, you will go on labouring to achieve the famous "strategic parity" with Israel, and wait for a favourable opportunity to strike, calculating the international situation, and what may seem as an inner weakening of the social structure of Israel.

What, then, is to be done with you? Frustrating as it may seem, the answer is that there isn't really much to be done. We appear to be trapped in the Gordian knot of a conflict that, as far as you are concerned, can be untied only by the sword and we can only count the days, the months or the years until war erupts again.

The writer is a senior columnist on *Devar*.



Syrian President Hafez Assad (AFP)



Jubilating Iranian soldiers enter the conquered Iraqi city of Faw last month.

OF DEATH AND ANGER

The Guardian's Ian Black reports from the front in the Iran-Iraq war

IN THE underground command bunker beneath the sprawling Iranian firebase on the eastern bank of the Shatt al-Arab waterway, morning prayers are punctuated by the dull thud of artillery batteries firing over the river at the Iraqi lines on the occupied Faw peninsula.

"There is no God but God" intone the soldiers and revolutionary guardsmen, kneeling barefoot with palms upraised in supplication towards the crude sign on the corrugated iron wall that shows the direction of Mecca. Their young, bearded faces are startlingly pale in the harsh light.

Outside there are loud-speakers on tall poles on the tops of the dugouts and revetments, relaying the message of the prophet and the slogans of the revolution, not military commands. "To the heroic Moslem combatants," bubbled in their anti-gas suits in the mud. More than five years on this is still very much a holy war, and the fires that fuel it show no sign of dying.

Flying low in a Cobra helicopter over the Iranian front lines, scored out for miles over the edge of the desolate Khuzestan plain, is one way of gauging the sheer scale of this forgotten conflict. Row after row of artillery pieces are pointed across the sluggish brown water, outnumbered only by the excavating equipment vital to keep digging down into the soft sand. This is a big war, with heavy guns and deep trenches, and death and anger on a grand scale.

The dense palm groves on either side of the waterway — the Arvand Rud to the Iranians — are muddy and waterlogged, with occasional scorched patches where Iraqi shells or bombs have fallen. The overall effect is of a tropical version of the battle-fields of the first world war. Bloodstained stretchers are piled outside the casualty clearing station in the centre of a firebase, and across on Faw the Iraqis are pouring high explosives down onto the Iranian forward positions. Faw was taken in mid-February in the Val-Fajr 8 offensive, named for the faithful months when Ayatollah Khomeini returned to Teheran from his French exile in 1979 to push the shah off his Peacock Throne.

Now, hundreds of miles to the north, there is Val-Fajr 9, driving the Iraqis and Iranian Kurdish counter-revolutionaries out of a string of isolated villages in the mountainous Sulaimaniyah area. Another attack is expected soon in the Howzeleh marshes, half way between the two fronts.

BOTH RECENT offensives have taken advantage of a numerical superiority of three to one, tactical surprise, and a lucky combination of difficult country and bad weather which hamper the deployment of both Iraqi armour and air-power. The brunt of the Faw attack was borne by Iraqi reservists whose shattered and decomposing corpses still litter the sandbagged bunkers intended to

protect them from a sudden assault on the waterfront.

Dire economic straits, plummeting oil prices, and a desperate need to keep the momentum of the war going have forced the Iranians to be inventive despite serious difficulties in obtaining spare parts and keeping their badly-depleted air force in combat shape.

No one has solved the mystery of how their first wave crossed the Shatt on the stormy night of February 9, although there are rumours of a submersible pontoon bridge used after dark to move equipment and supplies without the danger of attack from the air.

With the help of the tireless and highly-effective propaganda machine, Faw has been hailed throughout Iran as a famous victory — an operation, according to the mullahs, "matchless in human history". The assaults on the Maginot and Bar-Lev lines are said to have been feeble in comparison.

Away from the fronts there are few obvious signs of war weariness — even among the mourners in the rapidly filling "martyrs plots" in the unassuming mausoleum that is the Beheshti-Zahra cemetery outside Teheran. The middle classes in the opulent northern suburbs of the capital feel the economic pinch, but still pay huge bribes to keep their sons away from the killing fields that have claimed an estimated 400,000 lives since September 1980.

The masses complain endlessly about the price of rice and meat but the Martyrs Foundation takes good care of the families of the war dead, and they seem to be marching solidly behind the old imam in his personal war of revenge against the "godless Ba'athist-Zionist regime" in Baghdad.

"Death to Saddam. Death to America. Death to Israel," the crowds boom out at every public rally and prayer meeting, clapping tens of thousands of right hands over the heart in that most moving gesture of Shi'ite devotion. It may be only ritualised hatred, but it still conveys a force of terrifying faith and power.

TAKING THE measure of popular support for the war and the regime — for the two have long been synonymous — is a difficult and frustrating business.

"The revolutionary guards are Khomeini's private army, just like the imperial guard were for the shah," whispered a soldier on the Teheran-Ahvaz train.

"What can you do in a country," asked a middle-class engineer in something approaching real despair, "where so many people say they are

prepared to die for Khomeini, to do anything for him?"

There seems little doubt that while Khomeini lives the "imposed war" will go on. Despite the selection of Ayatollah Montazeri to replace the imam after his death, no one expects a smooth transition of power or any easy relationship with the popular and radical Speaker of the radical Majlis, Hojatoleslam Hashemi Rafsanjani. The underground opposition may emerge to make the whole system, and not just the war, an issue.

Public statements on the goal of the latest operations have been brutally frank. The Arab Gulf states, warn Iran's leaders, must stop supporting Iraq, although there is, of course, no sign that they will do so. There is pure delight in the way the intense young men from the Ministry

of Islamic Guidance take correspondents to look at the Kuwaiti border from the edge of the Faw peninsula.

The Islamic Republic of Iran seems no nearer to obtaining the head of Saddam Hussein than it was when the fighting began. But the price of peace is getting higher. The occupation of Faw means that Iran is now holding three sizeable pockets of Iraqi territory. The other two are up north in the Majnoon Islands, and far away in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Every inch means that the conflict will last longer. After more than five years of offensives and counter-offensives, of sacrifice and blood in the name of injured national pride, ancient prejudice, and revolutionary Islam, the world outside may still be as indifferent to that prospect as it is uncomprehending of its reasons. But nobody who has seen this dreadful and ruinous war will ever forget it.

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Khalil Sakakini was born in Jerusalem in 1878 and died in Cairo in 1953. A member of the Greek Orthodox faith, he was a respected author and man of letters, and a leading personality in pre-1948 Palestine. A journalist and poet, he published about 10 books on history and linguistics, and a volume of memoirs.

Sakakini established a private school in Jerusalem and served on the Jerusalem Municipality, the Supreme Moslem Council and the Palestine Executive Committee. He was also active in efforts to promote Arab-Jewish rapprochement.

The growing attention paid in recent years to the modern history of Palestine has brought greater recognition to Sakakini's work than during his lifetime. Last year a biography of Sakakini was published in Nazareth.

In the following excerpts from his memoirs, 'That's the Way I Am, World, Sakakini directs his ironic criticism at both Jews and Arabs. This section of his memoirs (beginning in 1946) is a unique chronicle of the last days of the Jerusalem Arab neighbourhood of Katamon, as seen through the eyes of an involved and discerning observer.

July 22, 1946
HOW RIGHT are the people of Palestine when they consider this day the day of the great disaster. The terrorists blew up the government offices in the southwestern wing of the King David Hotel. The offices were packed with department heads, employees, businessmen, soldiers and policemen, and everything inside was destroyed. More than 100 persons were killed and many injured, some seriously, and a small number of Jews were among the dead and wounded. As I write these lines the government is labouring night and day to clear the rubble and to remove the dead. God knows how high the death toll will rise after the rubble is cleared.

People ask me: Has the government caught any of the terrorists, and what does it intend to do?

To date the government has not announced that it has caught anyone, and as for what it intends to do, God only knows — but it immediately imposed a curfew, and immediately halted car and bus traffic, and compelled people to return to their distant homes on foot. The heat was intense, and [my son] Sari and I arrived home with our clothes drenched in sweat.

'The day of the great disaster'



Khalil Sakakini

How fitting it was that the government declared its great sorrow over the Jewish dead and wounded, and their decision on the creation of a Jewish state from the Nile to the Euphrates; that it attended the Jewish funerals and lowered the flags to half-mast in mourning, then granted a loan to the Jewish people for the building of their national home; that it gathered the Jews of the world and sent them to Palestine at its expense; supplied the Jewish army with arms, planes and tanks; forced the Arab states to open their doors wide to the Jews and cleared the path for the Jewish internees after apologizing to them and asking what were their wishes; and placed the entire world at the service of the Jews and at their very beck and call. There is no God but Allah and no chosen people of God and man, save the Jewish people.

January 1-8, 1948

WE SAID farewell to last year with a thunder roll of shells from big and small cannons, and bullets from all kinds of guns, all of them rapid-fire. We welcomed the new year in the same way, as if we were on a battlefield.

The most important places were Sheikh Jarrah and Katamon; as if the Old City were Sebastopol Castle,

Sheikh Jarrah were Firdan and Katamon the island of Malta.

The most important incident occurred in Haifa, between the oil workers and the Jews. The Jews began the hostilities by throwing a bomb at the unarmed Arab workers, six of whom were killed. As a result, the Arabs rose up and attacked the Jewish workers with stones and sticks, and 40 or more were killed. In this incident the bravery of the Arabs was evident, as the ancient poet wrote: "No one can act foolishly towards us / Because we are much more foolish than the fools."

... The third incident was the Jewish infiltration of the Katamon neighbourhood on a dark and rainy night, around 2:30 a.m., while people were feeling safe. They blew up the Semiramis Hotel, which collapsed on its residents and owners and killed many of them.

After all this, there was no reason to trust the Jews and to be at their mercy. Therefore, we decided to take the responsibility for guarding our neighbourhood into our own hands. We held round-the-clock meetings and studied what kinds of weapons we had. We collected money to buy more weapons and to hire guards for night and day. Later we put sand barrels at the entrances to our quarter.

We were lucky to have two doctors, Haddad and Mansur, a registered nurse, an Armenian, in addition to Mrs. Talil, to Dumya. Halah and others. We also had three engineers, Daud Talil, Martin Haddad and Nasser Abu Mikhar. We assigned them to visit homes, to determine the weak points where an attack might come, and to put up barricades to protect them. We were also lucky to have quite a number of young men and women who were ready to defend their homes.

To each entrance and corner of our neighbourhood we assigned guards to stand there in shifts. Each night we chose a new password for the guards. The password for the first night was "Ali," for the second "Zabi," etc.

In short, we considered our neighbourhood, which is surrounded by streets on all sides, as an island, a fortified castle. Oh, what are the castles of Sebastopol, Firdan, Jabal Tarik and Malta compared with ours!

Translated from the Arabic by Joel Greenberg and Michael Sala. This is the first of four excerpts from Sakakini's memoirs.

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The Middle East page is edited by Yehuda Liani.

MARKET PLACE

Macabee Dean

Lack of parking drives motorists to use bus

Ever since a former finance minister "aridized" — to coin a new word — our streets with a huge influx of cars, making parking space not only a rarity but as expensive as an annual basis as a round-trip flight to London, we have been forced more and more to resort to public transport.

The good news is that using Dan buses is not the depressing horror we had imagined. At least lines 63, 61, 60, 12, are quite clean and not overly crowded; they run fairly close to schedule; the seats are almost comfortable; most windows can be opened or closed, other passengers permitting; and smoking is kept to an absolute minimum. But many drivers are either stone deaf or trying to drown out the conversation of the passengers — to judge from the blaring radio.

True, some drivers have deficient manners — but so do their passengers. Yet, some drivers stop between stops to let off invalids, but then others ignore a bus station with a wheelchair passenger, or a woman with a baby carriage. Some drivers will turn a blind eye when a passenger boards with a dog; others will snarl that the dog must "pay," rejecting the owner's demand that "if the dog pays the dog gets a seat."

The drivers can easily be compared to fighter pilots; they miss by a hairbreadth moving or parked other vehicles and they do this with uncanny skill, for they are concentrated on making change or punching a strip ticket.



But then these buses can stop on a dime. And when they do — anyone standing and not holding on firmly with both hands is apt to change his position suddenly from vertical to horizontal. This can also happen when these buses start — or rather accelerate like a rocket.

And even staunch anti-feminists will admit that the occasional woman driver on these lines can handle their vehicles with a much more delicate touch than most men. But this is an unfair comparison, for it is between the average male driver and the very best women drivers — for a woman has to be twice as good to get half as far in the bus driving world.

The passengers themselves are a mixed lot. Some are super loud; some seem lost in contemplation. Some will manhandle their way to the head of a queue shouting to comfort others — "there is plenty of room inside!"

Passenger manners are often of two kinds: those of the young mabras — the Israeli-born natives (not native-born Israelis) — which means that they will never get up to give an elderly person a seat; and men adherents of the liberated women generation. For when it comes to giving up their seat, these men forget their chivalry and consider a woman their equal and entitled to a man's right to stand.

Now for the bad news. The Dan Bus Cooperative does little to help its fare-paying public find its way around Greater Tel Aviv which contains hundreds of short streets.

It is easier to use public transport in New York, London or Paris. True, the buses have numbers, but no route destinations. There are no maps of bus routes in the buses, nor at bus stops. Drivers never call out street names. They have no city street guide to help passengers.

Places selling strip tickets are few and far between; the drivers refuse to sell them at the end of their run, or at the beginning of the next, although they have plenty of time. These multi-trip tickets could even be sold at Mifal Hapais stands.

But it is doubtful if any of these simple and inexpensive improvements will come about until Knesset Members stop using their government cars bought from public taxes and start riding buses together with the people they are supposed to serve.

Profits tax mooted in budget review

By AVI TEMKIN and ASHER WALLFISH
Prime Minister Peres "does not rule out" imposing a capital gains tax on profits made on the stock exchange, senior Labour Party sources said yesterday. The prime minister has not rejected a proposal to tax capital gains instead of introducing an education levy or taxing old-age pensions, the sources said.

Peres met yesterday with the Labour Party's secretary-general, MK Uzi Baran, and the secretary of the party's Knesset faction, Rafi Edri, and heard from them of wide-spread opposition to the education levy and taxes on old-age pensions among the party's MKs.

Edri reiterated that he would not recommend that the party vote for the budget law when it comes up for its second and third readings. Knesset Finance Committee members yesterday told *The Jerusalem Post* that there is "more than a reasonable chance" that the budget law will not come up for its second and third readings before the beginning of the new fiscal year on April 1. He said that the prime minister and Finance Minister Yitzhak Moda'i will probably have to negotiate over all levies and taxes which the committee has not yet approved, and they will have to work out some kind

of compromise. Otherwise, there is little chance that the Knesset will approve any new taxes.

Prime Minister Peres will confer with coalition leaders tomorrow to try and assure a smooth passage for the 1986/87 state budget bill before April 1.

In the Finance Committee, a broad front encompassing all factions objects to several cuts affecting education and welfare. Likud members agree with their Alignment colleagues that everything possible should be done to prevent the reintroduction of the education levy, and the taxation of old-age pensions.

The Prime Minister's Office put out a statement yesterday stressing that, as long as the overall budget figure was not exceeded, there was no reason not to make internal changes in response to demands from coalition factions.

Although rumblings inside the

Alignment are much louder than those in the Likud, two Likud men nevertheless protested yesterday against what they regard as unfair cuts.

Meir Shitrit (Likud-Herut) said the education levy was far more serious than an economic issue. Uriel Lynn (Likud-Liberals) said that the Likud, which in the past had revoked the tax on old-age pensions, should not support its reimposition.

Labour Party Secretary-General Uzi Baran and Alignment faction secretary Rafi Edri held a first meeting with Peres about the budget last night.

The Jerusalem Post Labour Reporter adds:

The Histadrut and the Manufacturers Association reached broad agreement on the need for, and the components of, an economic growth policy during a meeting between the two organizations on Sunday.

DID YOU KNOW THAT...

Israel would have to export 180 shirts or 100 crates of oranges or 1,000 cans of orange juice concentrate to match the average earning provided to the national economy by a single tourist. (Tourism Ministry)

MARKET STATISTICS

Indices:

General Share Index	111.32	-1.09%
Non-Bank Index	124.78	-2.79%
Arrangement	105.24	-0.18%
Insurance	135.28	-2.69%
Commerce, Services	126.96	-4.15%
Real Estate	150.76	-2.41%
Industrial	117.48	-3.86%
Textiles	138.23	-3.77%
Metals	110.36	-2.84%
Electronics	100.68	-3.27%
Chemicals	114.09	-2.80%
Industrial Invest.	125.68	-1.92%
Investment Cos.	132.95	-2.03%
General Bond Index	101.08	+0.07%
Index-linked Bonds	100.98	-0.02%
Fully-linked	102.39	-0.04%
Partially-linked	100.08	-0.01%
Dollar-linked Bonds	99.94	+0.45%
Short-term 0-2 yrs	100.48	+0.10%
Medium-term 2-5 yrs	100.93	+0.09%
Long-term 5+ yrs	100.83	-0.01%

Turnovers:

Shares - total	NIS 10,027,800
Arrangement	NIS 3,240,000
Non-bank	NIS 6,787,800
Bonds - total	NIS 5,100,900
Index-linked	NIS 2,586,400
Dollar-linked	NIS 2,514,500
Treasury Bills	NIS 21,777,400

Share Movements:

Advances	52	(68)
of which 5% +	10	(12)
"buyers only"	3	(4)
Declines	253	(221)
of which 5% +	96	(79)
"sellers only"	39	(40)
Unchanged	87	(103)
Trading Halt	48	(47)

Bond Market Trends:

Index-linked	Mixed to 2%
3% fully-linked	Mixed to 2%

4.25% fully-linked	Falls to 2%
80% linked	Mixed to 0.5%
90% linked	Slight gains
Double-linked	Stabilizes to 1%
Dollar-linked	Admon
Admon	Mixed to 0.5%
Rimon	Rises to 2%
Gilboa	
For. Curr. denominated	Stable/slight rises
Treasury Bills (monthly yield)	1.33% to 1.56%

Arrangement yields:

IDB ord.	12.08%
Union 0.1	11.83%
Discount A	12.05%
Mitrahil r.	12.06%
Hapoalim r.	12.21%
General A	11.84%
Leumi stock	12.02%
Fin. Trade 1	10.19%

SELECTED PRICE QUOTATIONS

Name	Price	Volume	%	100NIS change
Commercial Banks				
(not part of "arrangement")				
Maritime	1155	3952	-0.9	
General non-arr.	32200	69		
First Int'l	3800	5475	-4.2	
FBI	3440	5170	-3.1	
Commercial Banks (part of "arrangement")				
IDB	80180	325		
Union 0.1	60000	138		
Discount	102400	438		
Mitrahil	33000	1110		
Hapoalim r.	54330	1280		
General A	138500	6		
Leumi 0.1	34650	2197		
Fin. Trade	48000	1	+0.8	
Mortgage Banks				
Leumi Mort. r.	3816	728	-8.2	
Dev. Mort.	580	1419	-5.8	
Mishkan	1970	145	-8.2	
Tefahot r.	11500	28	-4.2	
Merav r.	2517	2011		
Financial Institutions				
Agri C	31680	8	+10.0	
Ind. Dev. DD	no trading			
Cla Leasing 0.1	8500	50	+4.7	
Insurance				
Ararat 0.1 r.	3730	244	-4.7	
Hessneh r.	2785	8850		
Phoenix 0.1	1250	2134	-10.5	
Hamishnar	5840	3	-1.0	
Menorah 1	6850	30		
Sahar r.	3929	368		
Zion Hold. 1	13100	15		
Trade & Services				
Meir Ezra	4480			
Supernol 2	4200	820	-2.3	
Delek r.	4875	3466	-4.1	
Lighterage	8536	29	-0.6	
Cold Storage	1026	312	-10.0	
Dan Hotels	3600	361		
Yarden Hotel	2928	150	-15.0	
Hilton 1	13000	50	-8.4	
Team 1	1630	506	-4.5	
Real Estate, Building and Agriculture				
Azorim	3800	1752		
Elion	1151	1780	+0.1	
Africa Int. 0.1	40000	112		
Dankner	3400	847	-8.1	
Prop. & Bldg.	2650	3623	-4.0	
Bayside 0.1	4150	78	+2.2	
ILDC r.	47200	308	-0.4	
Ressou r.	6355	343	-5.0	
Mehadrin	10800	185	-8.1	
Hadarim	1150	5184	-7.1	
Industrials				
Dubek b	3230	1182	-4.2	
Pr-Ze 1	2683	1181	+10.0	
Surfrost	5800	340	-1.2	
Elita	15000	445	-5.3	
Adgar	705	3870	-2.1	
Argaman r.	6930	386	-10.0	
Delta G 1	4470	235	-2.4	
Maquette 1	22940	20	+8.0	
Eagle 1	440	11.7		
Poligot 0.1	8350	458	-5.0	
Schoeller	13800	73		
Rogosin	3270	743	-0.6	
Urdan 0.1 r.	10410	389	-1.4	
Is. Can Co. 1	890	8568	-7.5	
Zion Cables	2096	890	-9.5	
Pecker Steel	5580	600		
Elbit 3 r.	423000	23		
Investment Companies				
IDB Dev. r.	3730	1816		
Elion	2690	3021	-3.6	
Afik 1	no trading			
Gahetet	1300	151	-7.1	
Israel Corp. 1	1000	485	-8.0	
Wolfson 1 r.	67000			
Hapoalim Inv.	4120	857	-6.9	
Laumi Invest.	4858	483		
Discount Invest.	2240	5667	-4.0	
Mitrahil Invest.	14400	135	+3.5	
Cla 10	2660	2599	-0.2	
Landeco 0.1	8200	22		
Parma 0.1	10120	102	+1.2	
Oil Exploration				
Paz Oil Expl.	10850	48	-0.5	
J.O.E.L.	1205	553		

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FINANCIAL DATA: ISRAEL, EUROPE, U.S.

Israel Money Markets March 17, 1986

SHEKEL INTEREST RATES
PRIME BORROWING RATE: 1.25% per month
Unlinked Deposit (Annual Rates)

	LAST UPDATED	TAPAS	PAKAM 7-DAY	PAKAM 30-DAY
LEUMI	17.3	8-13%	8-12%	8-12%
HAPOLIM	13.3	10-12%	11-12%	12-12.5%
DISCOUNT	13.3	7-13%	7-13%	9-13%
MIZRAHI	18.2	12-19%	12-20%	12-18%
FIRST INT'L	12.3	6-13%	7-13%	6-13%

Rates vary according to size of deposit.
(Tapes: demand deposit paying daily interest.
Pakam: fixed-term deposit available from 7 to 59 days.)

PATAH — FOREIGN CURRENCY DEPOSIT RATES (as of March 17)

	3-MONTHS	6-MONTHS	12-MONTHS
USD	6.750	6.750	6.875
STG	10.625	10.625	10.700
DMK	3.875	3.750	3.750
SFR	3.250	3.125	3.125
YEN	3.875	3.750	3.625

Rates vary according to size of deposit and are subject to change.

SHEKEL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	PURCHASE	SALE	BANKNOTES	SALE	BANK OF ISRAEL
U.S.A.	DOLLAR	1.4837	1.5023	1.46	1.53	1.4935
GREAT BRITAIN	STERLING	2.1818	2.1880	2.12	2.22	2.1780
GERMANY	MARK	0.6821	0.6704	0.68	0.68	0.6850
FRANCE	FRANC	0.2150	0.2177	0.21	0.22	0.2184
HOLLAND	GILDER	0.5882	0.5936	0.58	0.60	0.5888
SWITZERLAND	FRANC	0.7888	0.7987	0.78	0.81	0.7925
SWEDEN	KRONA	0.2064	0.2089	0.20	0.21	0.2076
NORWAY	KRONE	0.2089	0.2116	0.21	0.22	0.2106
DENMARK	KRONE	0.1782	0.1804	0.18	0.19	0.1798
FINLAND	MARK	0.2906	0.2943	0.29	0.30	0.2930
CANADA	DOLLAR	1.0705	1.0839	1.05	1.10	1.0774
AUSTRALIA	DOLLAR	1.0519	1.0651	0.98	1.08	1.0589
SOUTH AFRICA	RAND	0.7458	0.7549	0.65	0.72	0.7484
INDIA	RUPEE	2.5365	0.3222	0.31	0.32	0.3248
AUSTRIA	SCHILLING	0.8331	0.8448	0.82	0.86	0.8480
ITALY	LIRE	0.9721	0.9843	0.95	1.01	0.9776
JAPAN	YEN	0.8469	0.8575	0.83	0.87	0.8518
JORDAN	DINAR			4.08	4.34	4.1889
EGYPT	POUND			0.80	0.85	0.8438

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European Financial Markets

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SILVER:	PARIS	NOON FIX	349.19	ZURICH P.M.	348.75
PLATINUM:	LONDON	FIX	565.90		
PALLADIUM:	LONDON	P.M.	413.00		
		P.M.	111.65		

FOREIGN CURRENCY CROSS RATES (London 15.30GMT)

Forward Rates

	SPOT	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
DEUTSCHE MARK	2.2468/78	112/107	171/166	327/317
POUND STERLING	1.4885/85	108/103	151/147	262/251
SWISS FRANC	1.8820/35	115/108	187/180	337/327
JAPANESE YEN	175.35/45	89/85	89/85	175/175
FRENCH FRANC	6.9020/70	975/1075	1275/1375	1750/1850
ITALIAN LIRA	1528.00/00	3275/3450	6100/6300	8800/8800
DUTCH GULDEN	2.5365/75	82/ 79	122/118	236/228
BELGIAN FRANC	48.0650/50	19/24	27/33	35/42
DANISH KRONA	8.3125/75	-25/25	-75/25	-75/25
S.AFRICAN RAND	0.4565/35	26/31	48/43	80/70
EUROPEAN CUPR. UNIT	0.9810/14	37/33	45/39	52/42
FINNISH MARK	5.9455/55	230/270	340/390	650/750
SWEDISH KRONA	1.7019/25	173/168	211/211	311/311
NORWEGIAN KRONA	7.0850/00	680/870	1005/1250	2015/2055

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French realities

IN ONE WEEK, two West European Socialist parties have confounded the pollsters who predicted utter defeat for both of them.

In Spain, a referendum yielded an unexpected majority for the country's staying on in Nato, as urged by the Socialist Premier, Felipe Gonzalez. He is now certain to win the general election later this year. In France, the Socialists, even while losing the absolute majority they had in the National Assembly, have re-emerged as the country's largest single party, able to hold the right and centre to a virtual draw. Premier Laurent Fabius is inevitably on the way out, but Jacques Chirac, the mayor of Paris who heads the neo-Gaullist Rally for the Republic, is hardly the sure bet to replace him that he was but a few days ago.

Having blocked the feared rightist landslide, President Francois Mitterrand has considerable leeway in choosing his governmental bed-mates. But he will have to cohabit with the former oppositionists who now control parliament, the results of the election being what they are. This may not be too difficult, even though Mr. Mitterrand and Mr. Chirac, whatever their precise relationship, will be squaring off during the next two years in anticipation of the next presidential contest.

One reason why the Socialists and their right-centre adversaries may be able to work together until then within the framework of a new national-consensus, is that the extremes of right and left pose no major threat to the republic.

The communists, once France's biggest political party, have dwindled under the leadership of Georges Marchais to just one tenth of the electorate. Their only hope of making their presence felt is as the Socialists' camp followers. At the other extreme, Jean-Marie LePen's neo-fascist National Front, probably drawing away some of the communists' working class support, netted another one tenth on a platform of hatred for foreigners - Jews not necessarily excluded - which can hardly fail at a time of rampant unemployment. But this much, if not more, had been portended by the elections to the European Assembly.

The best assurance of internal stability in France is that the major parties have come closer together under Mr. Mitterrand. The Socialists turned off some of their newly-won supporters, five years ago, by a series of doctrinaire measures they soon reversed, changing - although without openly acknowledging it - into something like social-democrats. The right wing, on the other hand, has come to terms with the more enduring aspects of the Socialist programme, even while criticizing it for its excess of Keynesianism and its inadequate commitment to the free-market philosophy.

Despite Mr. Mitterrand's well publicized contretemps with Greenpeace and in Chad, criticism of his foreign and defence policies was largely muted during the election campaign. The hostage fiasco in Beirut was, by a model gentlemanly agreement, barely even mentioned. This augurs well for continuity in French foreign policy, which will in any case remain the prerogative of the president, as it must. This is good news for Israel: Franco-Israeli relations, greatly helped by the waning of Arab oil and petrodollar power, have not been better for decades.

The case of the cable-car

THERE WAS a time, before Israel came into being, when the Shabbat-goy was a regular feature of Jewish cities, and of Jewish neighbourhoods in mixed cities, in this country on Shabbat. Familiar to immigrants from Eastern Europe, the Shabbat-goy was satisfactory to religious and inoffensive to secular Jews. The absurdity of transplanting such a characteristic Galut invention to Eretz Yisrael did not for long dawn on leaders of the Yishuv.

In due course, however, it did. Today it is generally agreed that if some vital municipal service must be rendered, whether for reasons of *pikuah nefesh* - danger to life - or for pressing economic reasons, on Shabbat, it must not be entrusted solely to non-Jews. Although there are occasional exceptions, no-one would now think of fictitiously selling a pharmacy to an Arab employing only Arab labour for the duration of the Shabbat on which it is due to stay open.

This, despite the fact that a precedent of sorts for such a solution may be said to exist in the sale of *Hametz* for the duration of Pessah.

Lately, in the largely Jewish city of Haifa, the issue has come up to divide religious and secular Jews, and to set Mayor Arye Gurel of the Labour Alignment against his party leader Shimon Peres. The issue revolves around the operation on Shabbat of a cable-car linking Stella Maris with Bat Galim, the construction of which by a municipal subsidiary was completed a full seven months ago.

Mr. Gurel wishes the cable-car, an undoubted tourist attraction, to operate on Shabbat, for otherwise it could not operate profitably; and because at a time of spreading industrial unemployment in this city of industry, expanded tourism is a vital contribution to the city's economy. He bases himself on the fact that the pre-state status quo agreement in religious-state matters excluded Haifa from the country wide ban on public transportation on Shabbat.

The religious parties in Haifa, and the Haifa rabbinate, heatedly contest the mayor's reasoning. The Haifa exception in the agreement they say applied only to buses, and even the Carmelit of old, connecting the lower city with Hadar Hacarmel, was closed on Shabbat by the late Mayor Abba Khoushi, at the request of David Ben-Gurion. Besides, the cable-car is a means not of public transport but of amusement. And it is the kind of amusement that not only violates Shabbat but actively promotes such violation.

Premier Peres, citing the endorsement of the status quo in the policy guidelines of the present government, and perhaps also thinking how best to coax the religious parties into a future narrow coalition, has made it public that he too agrees the cable-car should be idle on Shabbat.

So what has Mr. Gurel done to get around this little difficulty? He has resurrected, on the advice of experts, no doubt, the old invention of the *Shabbat-goy*. He has approved the sale of the cable-car to a consortium partly owned by a Druse lawyer, which is to be operated by Druse - or, in any case, Arab - labour, at least until such time as it can be made to work automatically. This, he must have believed, will solve the problem.

It seems, however, that it will not. Haifa's Orthodox organizations are up in arms, crying "eyewash" and threatening to take the matter to the High Court.

They are right, and this is what Mr. Gurel, if he had guts, would himself have already done. The operation of the cable-car in Haifa on Shabbat is either a legitimate or even indispensable public service that is well within the status quo, despite the Carmelit precedent, or it is a violation of the law, whoever it is that does the operating. Of all cities in Israel, "red" Haifa should have been the last to try to bring back the *Shabbat-goy*.

Oversized employer

ARNON AVINER

TO JUDGE by the latest official statements, the government has not yet found the suitable tools to curb the public sector's rampant growth. Israel's overinflated public sector towers ominously over all other branches of the economy, directly employing 35 per cent of all wage earners.

In fact, a much higher figure seems more appropriate because the Central Bureau of Statistics does not differentiate between direct and indirect public services. Thus institutions such as the Bank of Israel the Postal Bank, various authorities and public corporations supplying electricity, water and communications, are excluded from the definition public services.

If we go one step further to include the 60,000 employees working in approximately 170 government-owned or controlled enterprises, then nearly every second employee in this country receives his wages from the state.

The power of the state in the labour market is an indication of the government's predicament over employment policy. It is, at one and the same time, the country's dominant employer, the foremost supplier of goods and services, as well as its own largest customer.

For an objective assessment of how much public service can be regarded as sustainable by the community at large, it is necessary to look beyond the borders to the west. For comparative purposes, two countries, the Federal Republic of Germany and the United States, were chosen.

Germany is an exemplary modern welfare state with an efficient but large civil service. The U.S. is totally committed to free enterprise with a minimum of government involvement in the economy.

We are concerned with two ratios: public servants in relation to the population and to the labour force or civilians employed in the economy. For every 10 citizens there is one public servant, which is 49 per cent more than in the U.S. and 19 per cent more than in Germany.

Relating the number of public servants to total employed civilians accentuates the deviation from Western norms. In Israel there are three public servants for every 10 workers. This means that the public sector's share of the labour market in Israel is 70 per cent higher than in Germany and nearly twice the ratio in the U.S.

CRITICS may argue that such comparisons are misleading. For in-

stance, in some sectors of the public service, the proportion of part-time employees is unusually high. Therefore, simply counting heads leads to distortion. True, many distortions complicate such comparisons. However, in neglecting most of them, we do ourselves a favour because their analytical elimination, if technically feasible, would merely further darken the picture. For example, during the past decade, the Central Bureau of Statistics has transferred to other branches of the economy two important public utilities: the airport authority and Bezek which have approximately 10,000 employees. In other countries, the postal bank and the state bank are considered public service institutions; not so in Israel. Eight per cent of all German public servants are employed by the formidable national railway system. In contrast, Israel's mini railway's share amounts to less than 0.5 per cent.

'The public service must be reduced to proportions which the population as a whole can sustain'

Whichever way we look at it, the discrepancy is enormous. Comparing the labour force to that of other countries, we find Israel to be at a surprising disadvantage. Its labour force, and, therefore, the number of employed is much smaller in relation to population than is the case with either Germany or the U.S. Israel sustains an oversized public service which is recruited from a grossly undersized labour force.

This handicap becomes all the more dramatic because in Israel membership in the labour force begins at the age of 14, in Germany at 15 and in the U.S. at 16. In plain language, we are short of 700,000 persons in the labour force compared with the U.S. and at least 500,000 compared with Germany.

This anomaly is due to a combination of three factors. Most important, the acute labour shortage is a result of a deformity in the specific age structure of the population. Israel is not just a young nation in the historic sense but a nation in which youngsters dominate. Only 68 per cent of the inhabitants is 14 years or

older. The figure for the U.S. is 78 per cent and for Germany 83 per cent. In the long run, this phenomenon may work to our advantage. After all, we have a growing population while Germany's is shrinking.

The very size of Israel's defence forces constitutes a further drain on resources and significantly reduces the civilian labour force.

Finally allowances must be made for specific demographic characteristics. Israel's Arab community - particularly women - contribute much less to the labour force than its Jewish counterpart.

THESE REALITIES seriously limit Israel's productive capacity and it is, therefore, all the more unfortunate that the public sector's share of the remainder is disproportionately high. Is this state of affairs justified by extraordinary circumstances? Or have we simply been victims of Parkinson's laws and "Yes, Minister"? The truth, as usual, is a combination of them both.

Overproportional expansion characterized the public service in most Western and Eastern bloc countries during the Seventies. Since 1980, when it became apparent that economic growth had slowed down, public employment figures reflect a trend towards containment.

In general, developments in Israel have followed the same pattern, albeit with less success. Even after 1980, public service growth continued to outpace population increase though at a slower rate.

Between 1970 and 1984, public and community services have nominally outgrown the population 73 per cent against 39 per cent.

Up to this point, the public service has been treated as an undifferentiated whole. With respect to manpower allocation, the public service can be roughly divided into education (40 per cent), health (20 per cent), central government administration (15 per cent), local authorities (7 per cent), police protection (5 per cent), and others (13 per cent) comprising welfare, R&D, environment and various organizations.

Between 1980 and 1984, significant reductions were made in the welfare and municipal sectors. Central government administration has remained stagnant and police protection has increased at a slower rate than the population. Overproportional increases continued in health and education which happen to be the largest sectors employing nearly 60 per cent of all public servants. One can readily appreciate

Dry Bones



why the Treasury has zeroed in on these potential main contributors to a determined austerity drive.

A LOOK at the educational system provides some idea of the complexity of the problems involved. The number of pupils in primary and secondary schools is higher than in most Western countries. Therefore, to educate these students, the government has to provide a correspondingly large educational system from an undersized labour force. The growth rate of pupils has been exceptionally high, particularly in the Arab sector where they have soared by 174 per cent during the past 15 years, completely outstripping that community's population growth which was 65 per cent.

These developments seem to justify some, but not all, of the expansion of the educational system. Teaching staff, which is the biggest cost factor, has increased at an even more rapid pace. Thus, the average number of pupils per teacher (not to be confused with pupils/class) has decreased dramatically to a level of 11.7 in Jewish and 22.2 in Arab schools. No doubt, this represents an extraordinary achievement. However, in view of comparable ratios in German schools (excluding vocational education) it does seem that we may have

overshot the mark. As with defence, in education objective necessities have mingled with self-perpetuating, vested interests, encouraging rates of expansion which clearly exceeded the available financial and manpower resources.

The public service sector must be reduced to proportions which the population as a whole can sustain. If past trends are not significantly reversed in the coming years, the long-term economic and social damage will be beyond repair.

There were times when the state got by with much less manpower. The government's aim must be to return, at least, to the tolerable situation that prevailed in 1970.

If such a project were carried out immediately, the public sector would have to be reduced by 77,000 persons to a level of 321,000. This is a sheer impossibility. However, taking into account the projected population of 1990, the public service could gradually be adjusted to a level of 378,000 employees which is 20,000 less than today.

Four thousand public servants must be phased out annually during the next five years which is much less than the natural dropout rate. Public service would then give up first place to industry and mining.

The writer is an economic consultant in Tel Aviv.

Disciplining the press

PNINA LAHAV

South and North America.

The Costa Rica statute established the Association of Journalists (equivalent to the Israeli Press Council) as a statutory corporation. The purposes of the corporation were to promote "the science of mass communications" and of culture generally and to "defend the interests of its members, both individually and collectively. Only reporters were required to obtain a license. Commentators were exempted.

The issue reached the Inter-American Court after a certain Stephen Schmidt was sentenced to three months in prison for "illegal exercise of the profession of journalism." Costa Rica had previously agreed to abide by the American human rights convention. The court decided that Costa Rica's press law violated the rights to free thought and opinion guaranteed by the convention.

COSTA RICA'S defence of its press law bears a close resemblance to the arguments advanced by an Israeli cabinet minister in defence of his own proposal to license the press. The reaction of the court should make Israelis ponder. For twice in this decade (first in the Unesco episode) eminent international jurists have rejected the effort to discipline the press in this particular fashion as incompatible with a commitment to maintain a free press.

collective aspect requires a free flow of information from the press to the public. That flow cannot be free if only "licensed journalists" are permitted to direct it.

NEXT, Costa Rica argued that licensing would encourage obedience to an ethical code and thereby improve the quality of reporting and enhance the civic responsibility of the press.

This argument touches the soft belly of the journalistic profession. In their zeal to criticize, expose corruption and be the first to publish a scoop, journalists often forget their civic duty to respect the other person's dignity, to uphold basic notions of public morality. It was precisely this lack of self-discipline that engendered the idea of licensing Israeli journalists.

Yet the medicine may be so strong as to cure the disease while still killing the patient. The Inter-American Court acknowledged the importance of journalistic ethics and responsibility, but rejected licensing as a legitimate means of accomplishing it.

"In principle, it would be a contradiction to invoke a restriction to freedom of expression as a means of guaranteeing it," the court said. Furthermore, "a system of control of the right of expression on behalf of a supposed guarantee of the correctness and truthfulness of the infor-

Furthermore, it is impossible to distinguish between persons who earn their living through writing and others, "for the professional journalist is not, nor can he be, anything but someone who has decided to exercise freedom of expression...."

In addition, the court found that the argument that journalism can be regulated like any other profession ignores the fact that freedom of expression has not only an individual but also a collective dimension. The

mation...can be the source of great abuse."

Costa Rica advanced a third argument. Licensing, it claimed, is a means for helping journalists to promote and defend their professional interests vis-à-vis the employers. Licensed journalists, backed by the legalized press council, will be better equipped to fight efforts by publishers to curtail their freedom of expression. Maybe so, ruled the court, but "the fact that a guild has the right to seek the best working conditions for its members...is not good enough reason to deprive society of possible sources of information."

THE INTER-AMERICAN Court unanimously advised Costa Rica that its statute could not live in peace with a commitment to freedom of expression. Licensing, said the court, may be a useful means to achieve legitimate goals. But usefulness is not enough. A state can restrict the convention's guarantee of free speech only if it shows that less restrictive means are not available. This, the state of Costa Rica failed to do.

What should Israel do? It would be prudent to resist the temptation to jump on the wagon led by Unesco and the Latin American republics. Better stick to the West as a model, and look for other, less radical means to inculcate civic responsibility in all segments of society, private and public.

The writer is an associate professor of law at Boston University and author of Press Law in Modern Democracies.

READERS' LETTERS

DEGRADING COMMERCIAL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, - Several nights ago, my husband and I were watching television and I was shocked and disgusted to see that once again the commercial for selling grapefruits is on the air and once more Israeli women are bouncing across my screen in their yellow T-shirts.

I have little resentment for the men who made this commercial. They are simply using the device which sells in this society. How sad! My outrage is focused on the government for airing this trash on our "public service television." How dare they perpetuate this degradation of women! I am also outraged at the women who made this commercial. They undermine the efforts women have made in this country to gain respect and recognition for themselves.

CAROL BACHMAN-OLIN
Ora.

OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, - I should like to protest as strongly as possible against the remark reported in The Jerusalem Post's article of February 26 about Binayamin Ben-Eliezer. To say that "The inhabitants (of the territories) are now ready to be raped, to be forced to accept an autonomy arrangement," is quite simply un-

ORWELLIAN NEWSPEAK

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post: Sir, - John S. Cohen's letter (March 5), responding to my call for a concentrated Zionist effort to promote aliyah from South Africa, gave me a pause to think whether we really inhabit the same universe.

In his letter, Mr. Cohen refers to South Africa as a "free democratic country." I wonder where he takes his definition of democracy from, Orwell's 1984?

Jerusalem. SHLOMO AVINERI

acceptable language, especially when it comes from a member of the Knesset.

It is frightful to read of an Israeli representative talking about human beings being "forced to accept" any political arrangement, rather than participating in the choosing of one. Moreover, the rape image is particularly objectionable. It both conjures up the image of a passive people that really wants someone else to make political decisions for it, as well as the slanderous stereotype of women who object to rape but secretly desire it.

Mr. Ben-Eliezer is entitled to hold and express his ideas, however misguided they may be. But for him to do so in such language shames the Israel government and the Israeli people he supposedly represents. He owes an apology to the Palestinian people and to women in general.

PHILIPPA STRUM
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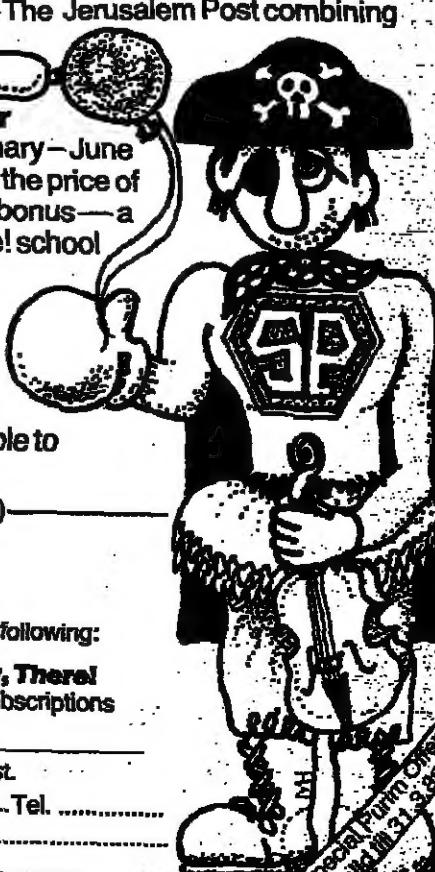
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